## Miscellancous.

## Mistress of St. John's.

When Miss Catherine bad sealed her let ters, she rose and called little Tib, her maid. Immediately there bustled round the partly open door the quickest and brightest little servant ever seen. She was going out, for she was clad in a little duffie cloak; her bonnet was snug and warm, and she had a small

basket on her arm.
"I think it has got colder since the morn sing, Tib," said Miss Catherina, as she gathered the letters together -- "much colder."
"Yes, ma'am. The frosty wind bites at your nose like a wolf; but I shan't mind it; the roads are bard, and I can run."

"Do so; but first go up-stairs, and fetch that dark blue woolen handkerchief from my upper drawer, and that old bon from the

closet.
"Lank, ma'am ." said Tib, guessing the intent, "I'm warm enough, thank you, and running 'il make me a deal warmer."

A kindly shake of the head, and an imperative wave of the hand, warned Tib that her mistress' bidding must be done. So she went into the half, and ran up the great, carred, wain-cot staircase, and soon came down again with handkerchief and boal These her mistress took, and put the one over Tib's bonnet, and the other round Tib's throat; and when this was finished she referred to Tib's errand.

"Get Snibson to put on what stamps ar necessary, and carefully post them, as they are Christmas letters to friends and here's eighteen pence, which will, perhaps be money enough; then get a pound of candles and pound of sugar; call at the town library for the book I was to have; and last thing get a small piece of roasing beef-say four or five gounds-at Cobb's shop, and tell both him and Bot that they shall have their accounts as soon as I hear from Mr. Hutt, or the commissioners."

"Ob dear, ma'am," spoke Tib, "they both said, when I was there last, that you wasn't to trouble vourself at all about the little you owed 'em : but' you was to have everything you needed; indeed, old Mr. Cobb quit faughed at the thought of your sending message about such a little bill of fifteen shi lings. He said if it was fifteen ar fifty pounds would be the same to him ! for you'd just as welcome to the best joint out of ha shop as though you didn't lowe a shill

hag."

,"The people are all very good to me in these days of trouble," said Catherine. "And please, ma'ant," hesitated Tib, " nont you have one pound of plants and currents one pound? It won't be a great deal; and it won't be Christma-like, Miss Catherine, if

you don't have a pudding." "No, Tibby, no! Christmas puddings and solitary bearths are sad things side-by-side. Were you to be at bome to morrow weld linve one; but as your gold nunt has sent to ask rou, you'd better go. Now make haste, you'll not reach the town in time for post;

and if you'll be quick back again I'll keep cold, I might just as well step in and take a

"Nothing more!" asked Miss Cranbrook. will a smile. "Yes, ma'am-that Joe might see me

home; for the road, with so much wood kbont it was wild like at might." This is the first lime you and I have found it out, Tib, though we have lived three years together. But doe is a good lad; and so Ill be no hindrance—only. Tibby, you mustn't leave your mistress till these shadows are a

"I ain't a-going, missis," replied Tibly, with A chocked voice; "I'm sure tail I; and so you needu't be fretting about it." Saving thus, Tib burried from the house

crossed the quaint precincts of the ancient school-linase, then the frost-bound road, and so into the woodland which lay opposite, and by which the road was shortened to the Catherine, like her little maid, had kept

some point for hesitation; for, no sooner bac she watched Tib across, the road, than she hurried after her, and opening the rude gate which led into the wood, went onward a few paces, till she stood beneath the shadow of some hollies, where her low call met Tib's ear "Don't come back, Tib; but you can ask at Cobb's or Bolt's how Mr. Farqubar is and if he is better. There now, go on

that's all". face, even if she could have done so, in the hoar shadows of the boughs, but went as slowly back to the old school-house of St. John's as though it was summer's eveningas though no wind blew icy from the north Once more in the old wainscoted hall, she repaired to the kitchen, where a fire burned ightly, and where little Tib had left things in exquisite daintiness; and there she set the tea-things, and carried them into the parlor, and made ten, though it was yet early, and sat over it, lost in deep thought, till nothing it by, and laid supper for old Kit (the man that milked the cow and attended to the land and garden.) Then lighting her lamp, and sweeping the parlor-hearth, she sat down to her peedle ber rarely-plied peedle, except upon labors of love of this sort, which was that of fabricating Tib a collar, for her Christmas box. As this was near completion she worked diligently, though pre-occupied by and and weary thoughts, her soul strugging through some hidden darkness of this morta life, as a dismantled ship through a dark and

-stormy sea. What bitter things, at best, are human festivals I how strewn with the wreck of So, when little Tib wished him 'a happy broken bones! how chequered with the visions Christmas' and asked for the book, he began of things that might have been, and never to growl. How countless are the men and

esque old woods to the little town-n very night like this?"

little town, of one main street, and one or two smaller branching from it. Though on this small scale, there was a tiny market-house, and a grand range of ancient buildings, called King Edward's School; and every house seemed to have a garden; and, finally, being situated in one of the nearest southern counties, the little town was not more than thirty Tib, but I don't think I can carry this. But or forty miles from London ; yet, in a coun-

try rich with ancient parks and woods, it was as quiet and remote as the way around be'il call for it, please sir, and bring it.'
for miles was picturesque with English land'Very well,' growled the cynic. 'very scape loveliness.

wherein Deborah Snibsen, the mistress, was belight of a rushlight. And mind, young wo-calico and vards of ribbon; harrying in so doing, for the post-hour was at hand. Seeing Tib she nodded to her, and bid her sit down; but more calico and ribbon customers arriving, and the inexorable hour close upon striking, she bid them wait whilst she attended to the letters. Taking those Tib had laid upon the connter, she proceeded to weigh and place on them the necessary stamps.

Christmas to keep—bread and water by the light of a rushlight. And mind, young wo-had made great preparations of cake, and muffins, and slices of ham—set in the picture of a cleanly kitchen, the best tea thing, and a rousing five. But, before Tib could see these for herself, she was met by Joe, who day, says so. Ha! ha! pretty things ha' kissed the frost off her face, and let her in in great triumph. Then, after a good deal was said all round, the tea was made and the muffins brought into requisition.

Alter talking shout. upon the counter, she proceeded to weigh but Mr. Clamp slammed to the door, and she and place on them the necessary stamps. but Mr. Clamp slammed to the door, and she "Well. Tib. and how's Miss Cranbrook?" had to creep her way down into the atreet. asked Mrs. Deborah, as she proceeded in her Nor was she distressed at Mr. Clamp's pros-

httle Tib, and that she came from the -old school house at St. John's.
"But poorly," replied Tib. "Her spirits he so willed. go down, now the winter days are so long and

only wonder when these folks up in London pudding. will settle matters about the old school-house

at St. John's ?" "I'm sure I wonder when ! ochoed more than one customer; and little Tib sighed. For a minute or so no one spoke, then, as Deborah began to bandle the letters Tib had hid down, she came to one or more beavier. than the rest-enclosed, in fact, in official en-

something nice as a Christmas remembrance

astically, "though I can't say as folks re- by the fire all day; par-tik-lar if she don't member ker half enough. But I should just get letters this morning.'

like you to see inside that letter, for there are "Tib,' said the kindly grocer, emphatically, Sultson, quoth little Tib, rising, like a sing- and papered his finest raisins and choicest ing bird, higher and higher in her note of currants. "for we've been making old Kitt two I'm sure; though it ain't for 'ein hardly to say

Deborah smiled, and looked up tenderly was for figs, and so she modestly repliedinto the hooded face. 'If the mistress of St. 'If you please, figs, sir.'

Join's is good, so is the little maid,' sho Whereupon Bolt papered a pound of figs, thought. She now came to the last letter— and laid them, with a shilling, on the the smallest of all-and she read, half aloud, counter. half to herself, the superscription: 'Oliver!

if all accounts are true. And, bless me ! to chat about the school affairs; and that, mean-stances seemed to surprise Miss Cranbrook think his father only kept a little druggist's while, she isn't to think a bit about the little shop in this town, and he what he is—for bill—it's nothing—it's nothing.' He waited they do say his brain and ed'cation is wonder—till the little maid had closed the door, and ful! A gentleman told me so not a long while ago. Yes, it was a poor little druggist's shop, just around the corner; and the lad are debts in this world that can alone be went a good while to St. John's."

wonder; it is out of poor shops, and poor and noble things! Didn't she make him houses of many kinds, that much marvel master in Latin and difficult figures, in spite working intellect comes - not out of places or of bigotted trustees, who would have kept the lar her mistress had. worked, for her Christhalls, or from the titled ranks; be very sure poor town's lads to the Delectus and the mas box.

For a long time after the little maid had

The letters being safe now in the post-bag, little Tib rose to go; Deborah begging to be respectfully remembered to ber wistress, and that her thanks be conveyed for a basket of

pears sent the week before. . Tib was turning from the door, when the post mistress called her back:

·Ab, I nearly forgot it; but just tell your mistress that there was a gentleman at the self. Nobody could learn his purpose, though as to bring his ruddy complexion to the color Tom, the waiter, says he thinks he came from of mulberries; where upon as he leaned against She did not let the little maid see her Offord by what he dropped. And Tib, tell a bench, quite out of breath—though still other day, and told me that Sir Richard is a kindly voice cried-coming to England for a short time, as the 'Cobb, my dear, hus Queen lids made him ambassador to a different country from where he is now."

Laden with ber news, Tib went. She now proceeded to the little market house,in a room above which was kept a fairsized library of ancient books, bequeathedthrough a long course of years—by sundry town folks, for the free use of such as might but the firelight shone through the shadows like to read them. Few were the applicants, of the moon. Then she took it forth, and set so that the keeper thereof had an easy life of the moon. it; for, with the exception of the learned mistress at St. John's, and a few neighboring parsons, a customer knocked rarely at the nail-studded door. Opening this, and ascending a little, crooked stair-case, Tib presented herself, in a minute sort of ante chamber, wherein old Jerry Clamp, the custodian, and his wife were getting their tea. From whatever cause derived, the old man had a very acrid nature; and, on occasions of festivals, such as this of Christmas, when men at least assume cheerfulness if they even do not feel it, his mood was always trebly bitter. And, strange to say, Mrs. Jerry shared his cynicism. So, when little Tib wished him 'a happy

'Happy Christmas!' he ejaculated; 'don't mistress' last words. women who hide such wrecks and visions in their souls! and how! worse than al!, do the folks. Its all right enough, however, for women, who sit by solitary fires, go back upon these steps of shipwrecked Time!"

In the meanwhile little Tib made her quiet. And as to the book, it's a very little one—a this reply to her question she departed. way through the mile-and a half of picturnice little hands book to carry on a winter's with this reply to ber question ebe departed. letters, or unbind the string which fastened children. He gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave way through the mile-and a half of picturnice little hands book to carry on a winter's with this reply to ber question ebe departed. letters, or unbind the string which fastened children. He gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education; reading: and as he gave me a fine education in the fine me and a fine ed

do.' Lean do a good deal for my missis,' quoth please sir, I know a nice young man, who'll be coming our way, I dare say, to night, and

'Very well,' growled the cynic. 'very well, only mind he sin't a minute after eight, or scape loveliness.

The post office was at a little draper's shop, be'll find the door closed. For I've got my wherein Deborah Snibsen, the mistress was bellight of a rushlight. And mind, young wolling divers customers to half-yards of light of a rushlight. And mind, young wolling the state of the state

duty—for everybody in this little town knew pective supper of bread and water, such beher per little Tib, and that she came from the old ing a pleasant fiction of his cynicism; for he Trowley

In a few minutes little Tib stood in Bolt the grocer's shop. That worthy, being some-"Ay, and I don't wonder at it," said Deb. what at leisure, and prone to chat, served orah indignantly; "she's had enough, and her with what she naked for, and then ingot enough still, to make a sore heart. I quired if she had forgotten matters for the

> me go; so she ain't a going to have a pud-ding, and that is just what it is.'
> But she must," said Bolt; "the mistress at John's must never go without a pudding. cook; and we could keep all hot by placing. Folks that don't taste Christmas fair ain't no the dishes over a courde of milking-pails fill-

—as half em do, one may be pretty certain, umphantly; "but you see, sir, the dear missis on your way, turn down the lane to St. John's, for I never knew Miss Cranbrook to forget a may-be would not boil it; for, ten to one she and there you could steal into the back door, end."

won't even roast the beef that I shall take and put the little dinner neatly on a tray, and won't even roast the beef that I shall take and put the little dinner neatly on a tray, and won't even roast the beef that I shall take and put the little dinner neatly on a tray, and won't even roast the beef that I shall take and put the little dinner neatly on a tray, and won't even roast the beef that I shall take and put the little dinner neatly on a tray, and won't even roast the beef that I shall take and put the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from Cobb's, but sit in deep sadness carry it into the parlor, and say, 'lf you please, the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from the little dinner neatly on a tray, and the con't replied Tib, enthusian bome from the little dinner neatly on a tray and the little dinner neatly on a tray and the little dinner neatly on a tray and

when she was in London in the spring. That get up early, and make the pudding, and other letter has a collar in it for somebody put it on to boil before you go; and by the else; for, though she don't like her needle, time the finds it, it may be done. So here's missis cannot, as she says, be always sitting the fruit, of which, if a word is said, you can at her books; so she may just as well space. tell it'll be all right in the bill—ha! ha! such stray minutes to her friends; and she And, amused at his own jobe, whatever it don't forget one of 'em. I can tell you, Mrs. might be, the merry little grocer weighed

When these were in the basket, he asked new shirts; and others that aint nigh as old, The what fruit she liked most. Now it hapor migh as good, have been thought of too, pened that all little Tib's tastes had latterly become merged into those of Joe; and therefore, though her liking was for raisius, Joe's

There my girl, there the

the way of the old school-house, and I will then, he added, as if carrying on the sentence in continuous breath, 'no mote it is. There sent a good while to St. John's.' summed up and paid in heaven, and this is Nevertheless, Deborah Snibson, check your one. For didn't she teach my nephew Richthis knowledge be has become a well-to-do

dropped a tear.

who are athirst. When Cobb, the butcher-and very fat "Cown,' the other day; and be made great in-quiries, both there and about the town, as to order for the beef, he whetted his knife on his sat till far into the night, with all the weight the old place at St. John's, as well as, of her- steel, and laughed to such a prodigal amount your mistress, as well, that Mr. Rogers, the whetting his knife-a little shutter opening steward, was down, from Sptton Place, the from a comfertable parlor was slid back, and 'Cobb, my dear, hush ! remember the ano-

plexy.' At as early a date as he might, the butcher attended to this injunction; and then, re-

pairing to the little cavity, whispered someprought it to Tib's basket.

'It is a very large piece, sir, said the little maid, 'and missis said only four and five pounds.

'We alwars give good weight at Christmas, lass-Oh ! oh !' and here Cobb went purple again, and his little wife, punching im on the back, cried-'Mind' the apoplexy, dear.'

So, as the good old butcher would say no ore, Tib was obliged to put the beef into the backet; and when Mis. Cobb had sent her dutiful respects, and expressed her hope that when Miss Cranbrook came to town she would honor her by stepping in, and tast-ing the Christmas ale, little Tib went, first asking, however, the point relating to her

Why, Mr. Farquhar is very bad-so bad

be delivered to the little maid with a grin. bread by the culture of a field or two, and by 'There,' he said, the road and the load will keeping a cow; and her eklest boy, Joe, worked under the steward at Sutton Place-a noble hall, at about the distance of a mile from the town. She had two other boys beside Joe, and very glad she was that he, who was so good a sou, had set his heart on so remembrances of others; only she was forgood a girl as little Tib; though she was a poor orphan, and one who had known much of the world's adversity, till Miss Cranbrook had befriended her. So, thinking that Tib and even in that, perhaps, if rightly viewed!

But hidderiended her. So, thinking that Tib and even in the perhaps, if rightly viewed!

But hidderiended her. So, thinking that Tib and even in the perhaps, it is a gual, by the perhaps and even in the perhaps. It is a gual, by the perhaps are flort of her iven will she chatted cheer. It helieve that he spoke in good faith and that till the perhaps are flort of her iven will she chatted cheer.

her perplexity about the pudding. Mrs. listened, but-said little; but when was a miser, and could dine on bank-notes, if Joe had started off to the library, for the book, she broached what had been meanwhile pas-

sing in her brain. 'You see, Tib,' she said, that your old aunt tea-time would do very well. Now, as I had Please, no sir, answered Tib, ruefully, 'the' a goose sent me yesterday. I intend to roast o'd aunt as has got a bit of money has sent it; and if so be you would dine here between for me this Christmas, and missis will make twelve and one, why we could put by the apple-sauce. I could make a little pudding, too, in a shape; for you know I am a good velopes of large size.

"Now I dare say," said Deborah, weighing the pudding, Tib, and I'll find the fruit and the back-house copper. And then, my the largest in her hand, "that this contains sugar." I can make a pudding, sir,' said Tib, tri- cart and drive you to your aunt's; you could

little Tib? memoer acr nail enough. Dat I should just get testers this morning.

"Tib,' said the kindly grocer, emphatically,
wo no beautiful pair of worked sleeves as you and clutching a pound weight that lay hard ever see'd. They are for the daughters of by, as though for demonstration, "a why to Dr. Musgraye, who were so kind to missis duty is always to be found. So you must one. And I should not like to offend her, or hurt her feelings in any way."
'You won't, for she is too good and too

kind to mistake your meaning. So I would

Tib's, the plums and other things were consigned to Mis. Throwley; and Joe room re-bear that you should be without dinner; and, the merest pittance, and but for the earnings turning with the large book, and it being eight o'clock, he and Tib set forth, as soon as something more in the way of refreshments had

scarlat he seen is all she went conward to the pailor. Kommey, Esq. Trinity College, Cambridge! shilling to buy a top-knot. When she got home, the little maid found door, and then, when there, and her face was 'And pray my dear,' she added, 'how is Mr. The courtseyed her thanks and prepared to the kitchen-fire bright, and her mistress in And pray my near, she said, she said falteringly, "if you please. Oliver Roundey? and has Catherine heard of go. She was closing the door, when the grothe parlor, quietly reading; but she said little
malam, Mrs. Throwley said if the night was late?"

And pray my near, she saided, now is Mr.

Go. She was closing the door, when the grothe parlor, quietly reading; but she said little
cer, calling her back a step or two, said, 'My of her errands, till Joe had rested and was ent on; for his rooms there still.' the way of the old school-house, and I will, ton Place; and of the visits and inquiries of with her honored leave, step in and have a the stranger from Oxford. Both circum, with her honored leave, step in and have a the stranger from Oxford. Both circum,

> was safe, and to wish her mistress goodnight, she related what she had beard. To this, Miss Cranbrook made no reply, other than an abrupt 'Good night;" so Tib closed the door, and went up to bed-there to find. upon her little dressing table, the lovely col-

left the room. Catherine sat just as though gentleman; and so Heaven reward her, for what she had instened to had rendered her I cannot—I cannot—" and the old man incapable of motion. Eventually, however, she arose, and unlocking an old-fashioned True, Bolt, our soul's growth can only come escritoric, took thence a letter. This she by knowledge; and, therefore, glorification brought to the table; and re-setting herself, read be to those who hold the divine cup to all it over and over again; then it dropped from her hand, fluttering to the floor, and lay. Then pressing her face into her hands, upon her soul of the desolation of this Christ-

When Tib went to her mistress in the morning, she found ber far from well; so she made breakfast, and took it to her. After this, Miss Cranbrook seemed better, and rising, came down to her pleasant parlor, wherein the brightest of fires shone and which Tib (by he way of showing it was a festive time) home, as her mistress was not well; for she thing. At this, a spruce little woman made had already told her of the proposal to dine her appearance, and the butcher gave his knife with Joe and his mother, and to go afterwards a final whet, and sent it like a sword into a large to the old aunt's —a plan to which Misa Cran brook's, was tinged with grey, and he seemed sirloin, and cut off a portion, which certainly, brook had assented, and thought good. She a little hunch backed. at the least did not weigh less than ten would therefore listen to nothing Tib would pounds. He made feint to weigh it, and then say, but bid her hasten to get dressed and

go. 'I would rather be alone to-day, Tib,' she said; 'much rather. And if I need to dine. I can boil an egg. or take a crust of bread and cheese; so make haste and go.'

. Tib, having her own reasons for not wishing to press the subject of dinner, said nothing more; but dressing and putting on the pretty collar, went down to take her leave.

'If you please, ma'm,I shall leave my warm shawl and basket till about two o'clock, when will call for them; for Joe will drive this

30.9

way. Very well, Tib; I shall be glad to see rou.

As soon as her little maid was cone Catherine put on her garden-bonnet and went forth to walk up and down the old, terrace, from which there was a lengthened view of the road. Here she remained till she saw the postman approaching from the little town, then, opening the rustic wicket, she went furth to meet him. But he did not begin to look at his

the post-missis gave me.'

neighbor of hers in the cottages and farms eminent political character. We talked much; around, seemed to be blessed by the tender we had sympathies akin; and I liked him. remembrances of others; only she was forwould come to tea on this Christmas eve, she an effort of her iron will, she chatted cheer fully to the old man; bid him call on the morrow, when Tib would be at home, and have some ale. She then, reaching the wicket, wished him good day, and returned to the most as soon as you saw me you made an house. Here once more in the parlor, she offer. It cannot be said that I refused, for house. Here once more in the parlor, she sank down in her chair and wept aloud. "Forgotten-forgotten! Alone!" she said.

"Even by my dear Andrew, above all!" After talking about many things—espection in the day sympathized, as it is somewhat of a hunchback," said seemed, with the terrible depression which ley had once lived servant—little Tib related law intermediate the day sympathized, as it is seemed, with the terrible depression which is law intermediate. It was weakness, all this "No: in truth, no. But I felt myself seeing her noble life, and the harvest coming of the immortal seed she had sown; but low in estate, from many causes, her spirit (usually so strong and full of faith) was bowed by the seeming desolution of the time and scene.
In the mean time it would have been dethe woods; how he made pretext of kissing away the frost, just as he had done the night before; bow in due time they reached the town; how dinner was ready early; how twelve and one, why we could put by the court nutrition injects part, with potatoes and greens, and apple-sauce. I could make a little-pudding, and how the nicest part of the wise bird was put aside; till, finally, with the pudding in the cart, Tib, Joe, and his little brother—were on their way to St. John's. Here arrived in the lane, a few yards off the picturesque old school-house, Joe and Tib alighted, and,

> and said, "It's me, missis." And Miss Cranbrook spoke as she lay quiescent on her couch beside the fire.

hurried in, and set the tray upon the table, six and ten years old.

"If you please missis," she said deprecating, "When I had brought the school into been partaken of.

I've brought it. And I won't stay more other things—is upwards of sixteen hundred now, ma'am, for Loe's waiting, and I'll sure pounds. For the last six months the school lit frosty woods, with the hoar frost shining and be home early." So saying, and without has been closed, and the whole business, is

her great astonishment at this appearance of be sold. If so, I am paid. I shall, with what The same said. She even risks this letter, think her said, in spite of all. And just say that her mistress what Mrs. Snibson had said a were. To please Tib, rather than from ining that if he is not at Cambridge it may be some frosty morning soon, I shall be walking bout the return of Sir Richard Sutton to Sut- clination, she tasted a little of both goose and kindest manner. He says that he owes to ton Place; and of the visits and inquiries of pudding; then carried the tray away, and me all that is valuable in life, and that when

much.

Not a word, however, was said on either side with respect to Mr. Farquhar, till Tib the sound of wheels in the lane, and a minute tary. I shall be independent, and be able to coming in to make the report that the house or so after, some one knocked upon the porchloor. Hastening to open it, she welcomed n Mr. Acton, an eminent surgeon, living at the distance of some miles. He said but little, till he was seated by the fire; then he asked her to accompany him to see Mr.

Faroubar. "He is dying," said the surgeon, thought fully, "and, as be says a few minutes speech would be to him the greatest human conso-lation, I hope you will not object to go!" "It is many years since I saw him," said Catherine, thoughtfully, and as though to

"It is; and, like you, he is utterly alone, You will therefore surely come. "I will: I owe it to him!" And Catherine hastened from the room, to put on her cloak

and bonnet. As she went the surgeon could but look

with grey.

They were scon on the way to the countrythe servant in charge of the vehicle, they alighted at some little distance from it, and approacing by a wooded path, gained a private door. This was opened by an elderly man-servant, who led them up a stone-stair. easy chair by the fire, sat a gentleman about sixty years of age; his hair, like Miss Cran-

When Mr. Acton had placed Catherine chair, he withdrew.
The gentleman held forth his hand; but

Cutharine was for some minutes too moved to take it. "It is very good of you to come," he said had many bitter and colitary hours-and of somewhat wilful causing, if I mistake not."

"We have; and when seasons, such as this comes round, regret arises chiefly because I ed a higher and more fasting happiness-that by-than had I followed the promptings of a more personal and selfish kind."

much; but the reward is great. Only tell find rest and peace."
me how it was, and what was the reason of "Amen! Amen!" your refusal twenty years ago."
"It was this: My father was, as you may

eminent political character. We talked much; went in alone. Tib had not vet returned On more than one occasion he said emphati-

was said—neither assent nor dissent. Still, "If we please, missus, I bin a knocking I believe that he spoke in good faith, and that till 'ee bones be sore like. Mrs. Snibson's his honor was irreproachable. Three years warry sorry; but she'd such a lot to think after this I saw you; you hired this house of on with the beef and puddin as to make this Sir Richard; you visited Sutton Place. Al-I repulsed you by absence rather than by words. I did not know then what you were,

or the quality of your noble heart. Moreover. And the morning, which had been hitherto you were a stranger to me—brusque in manso bright, began to be darkened by descending | ner and a little too authoritative to win."

bound to another-even through indirectly. You should have had patience, and you would have won me; for I liked you even then. As it was-

-"As it was," he interrupted, wringing his hands - as it was. I cursed my life and vonrs. In my mad disappointment-in my haste to show you that there were others whom I could win I married a heartless shrew, enrich it with the finest books in many lanwho in six weeks left me, and whom I have guages and thus affording him applace for never since seem or heard of, except as it has retirepted country change, and study, leaves concerned money matters. Bitterly have I her mistress of the old place, with power to

rued that liaste. "And bitterly, at times, have I rued my pride, and my false estimation of another's honor. Soon after you discontinued your alone the generalization visits to Sutton Place Lieft there also. I had history can be drawn. an enemy in the chaplain-since become the master of an Oxford College; and he, I have carrying each a seething burden, went softly strong reason to believe, poisoned Sir Richround to the court-yand in the rear. Here ard's ears as to the heterodory of the knowl-Tib, reaching the kitchen by a side door, she had purposely left unfastened, went softly about, like a mouse, while Joe watched her life. If men who pursue the higher depart turn, had much to say about the goose and through the window, and laid a snowy nap ments of knowledge find money come slowly kin on a tray, with silver and glass and other in, so, necessarily, must a woman, whose "Come in, Tib. I am glad to see you!" trusteeship belonged to my family. It is, as House of St. John's you know, a branch of the old Grammar School in our little country town, and in-So Tib, half frightened and much flurried, tended for the preparation of boys between

please ma'am, Mr. Bolt gave me the fruit, of my pen, most have starved. Some thirand said I was to make a pudding, for I said teen hundred pounds is due, and with what you wasn't going to have one-and so, please, I have spent in repairs to the building, and like silver on the great hollies, and the scarlet once looking at her mistress, she hurried from now in the hands of the newly organized Charities Commission. When last I beard,
When Miss Cranbrook had recovered from it was intimated to me that St. John's will little Till with so nice a dinner, she wondered is due, buy the old place. It is endeared to what could have prompted so sweet a thought; me by a thousand memories, and there I wish returned to her parlor.

The cold was greater—the frost more intwo little sons to do by them as I did by the
futher and he will pay me bandsomely. If he comes to England he shall bring me his have now for some time been rendering to my

> beloved Oliver." "What I have seen of him," said Mr. Far panr, "I like much. He appears to be an extraordinary young man. A gentleman who was here from town, a few days since; says that his forthcoming book is likely to be a masterpiece. I see that it is advertised."

Indeed, I suppose he means to surprise me, for he has been silent for some weeks. But I attribute it to the illness of his relative, a miserly old tradesman in London, who, for many years has allowed him a gentlemanly in-come, and at his death will leave him a considerable fortune."

"This is well," said Mr. Farquahar. " Means with curiosity at the expressive and still to rest upon is an absolute necessity, if litera-handsome face, though some fifty years had their traces there, and tinged her hair and with an ultimate purpose of high intent. And my object, somewhat in asking you to come here to-night is to sue for leave to make house where Mr. Farquhar lived. Leaving your remaining days free from troubles of a pecuniary kind. I have the means."

them: so make no attempt of the kind, for it will be utterly useless. A book or two you carry it from a south window through two had dressed with holly and Christmas flowers.

The latter then came in to prepose to stay at load chamber, half sitting room.

Here, in an voice, "for the pain I caused you—for the load chamber, half sitting room. mistake I made-will you, in the profound for d'minishes the brilliancy of the light charity of this time and hour, forgive me?"

torance,-"more readily, and more truly if a pleasing experiment. It will perhaps reyou tell fine one thing. Did you ever love

have drained the bitter cut of deep regret if such confession makes atonement.

"It will; because for years I have nightly at length, "at such a season, and on such a prayed for God's tender mercy to me in the night; but I thought you would. We have life to come: that, even as I have loved you with the deepost human love-even as I have worshiped your high intellect and lofty power-even as I reverence your singleness of heart, your rectitude, and truth-even as possibly gave pain to you, Mr. Farquhar. I have watched and wondered at what you Otherwise, I do not doubt that I have attain- had done for truth, ultimately, through those you have taught and trained-so do I pray is taking the average of years as they glide that, side by side with you on some nobles scene, we may have companionship. For this

I shall ever pray unto the end; and, trusting "Undoubtedly. These victories cost us in the perfect goodness of Almighty Goo "Amen! Amen!" she said, "so pray likewise."

She could say no more; so she rose eve have heard, a country gentleman of good as she spoke, and prepared to go.

He put a book into her band he had been reading: and as he gave it, she pressed her match to eat much and milk for \$10 and the

He took up the guttering candle as he spoke, and going into an adjacent room, respected into the wooded turned directly with an enormous folio, which country. She was a widow, and earned her turned directly with an enormous folio, which bread by the culture of a field or two, and the culture of a field or two tw 'No, ma'am, not one, leastways, that is all the only soo of Sir Richard Sutton, a neighbor and old friend of my family. Amongst
Little was said during the drive to St.
Catharine looked them through. Every but as soon as she was within and had got a

on with the beef and puddin as to make this yere parcel and letter go clean out of tor head. So you must just forgive her misena. Catherine proved that she did so by giving the bumpkin a shilling and dismissing him.

She came, back into the parlor, tore the

light she became aware that some one knock-ed at a door at the rear. Hurrying thither,

post cover off the thick and noble looking volume, and found, as she suspected, that it was Oliver Romney's book, and, and to her great surprise, that it was simply and briefly dedicated to herself. Then she read his letter, explaining his some week's silence, by his desire to surprise her with the gift of the first copy of his book on Christmas Day. It said, too, that his nucle was dead and buried, and that, when affairs contingent thereto, were settled, he should be the master of a handsome yearly income. Means would be, therefore, his—even if they did not other-wise arise—to secure St. John's, restore it, aid him, by gathering together out of books of many kinds, those facts and sequences of human action and natural laws from which alone the generalizations worthy the name

Thus, even as she stood on the desolate an unlit hearth, she could but feel that som triumph and some joy was hers.

Presently little Trh came home, with much turn, had much to say about the goose and pudding.

When Tib was some to bed, the fire bright, necessaries, and then set the nice hot dishes hindrances are so formidable. After two the lamp lighted, Catherine sat down to thereon, and went softly towards the parlor- year's struggle I returned to the country, look at Oliver's book; and so she read on thereon, and went softly towards the partor year's struggle 1 returned to the country, 100k at Oliver's 100k; and so she read on door. Opening it, she put her head within, and procured the mistresship of St. John's, and on till the deepest peace was hers.

and said "It's me, missis."

which was then vacant, and of which a So the night closed upon the old School

A year has gone by, and the old hollies ruddy bernies. Catherine's affairs are now kind to mistake your meaning. So I would in, and set the tray upon the table tray in the solution of the solut has for the teaching and guardianship of Sir Richard Sutton's little sons, she is indepen-dent; for the affairs respecting the school were more easily settled by reason of the good offices of a certain Oxford dignitary, who, hearing to what low estate Catharine Cranbrook had come, had thus repaired much

evil he had caused long years before. On this Christmas morning she sits at breakfast in one of the charming old paring of St. John's, now renovated and clothed all round with the library Mr. Farquhar beeither side of Catharine, and Oliver is oppo-site. The fire burns bright; the sun steads in; the ivy wreathes green about the window.
Little Tib comes bursting in with a hand-

ful of letters, and her face is very radiant, for Joe, and his mother and brothers, and her old aunt, and hit, the old gardner, are to. ding in the kitchen to day.

The group thus gathered in the old book-

lined room is charming one, and there is peace in the long tried heart of the mistress of St. John's.

## Examining Bottoms of Wells and Cisterns. It is not generally known, we think, how

easy a matter it is to examine the bottom of well, cistern, or pond of water by the use of a common mirror, ("looking glass.") When the sun is shining brightly, hold a mirror so that the reflected rays of light will fall into be a masterpiece. I see that it is advertised."

"Indeed! This is news to me," said Catherine; for, to my bitter disappointment, I had neither letter nor paper from him this morning. feet deep, when half full or more of water, The smallest straw, or other small object, dan be perfectly seen from the surface. In the same way one can examine the bottom of ponds and rivers, if the water be somewhat clear, and not agitated by winds or rapid motion. If a well or cistorn be under cover, or shaded by buildings, so that the sun light will not fall near the opening, it is only necessary to employ two mirrors, using one to reflect the light to the opening, and another to send it perpendicularly into the water. Light may be thrown fifty or a hondred varils to the precise spot desired, and then reflected downward. We have used "You may have, but I have no right to the miriors with success to reflect the light around a field to a shaded spot, and also to rooms, and then into a cistern under the north side of the house. Half a dozen reflections of light may be made, though each thir Let any one not familiar with this method-"I will, I will," he said, with choked ut try it, and he will find it not only useful but veal a mass of sediments at the bottom of the well, which has been fittle thought of "I did! I do!" she said rehemently. "I but which may have been a fruitful source of disease, by its decay in the water .- Agree. Agriculturist.

Questions for the Curious. 1st. If a tree were to full in the wilderness and there were no car within a hundred miles to hear it, would the falling of the

tree produce any sound?

2d. Saussure assures us that at the summit of Mt. Blanc, the report of a pistol is no louder than that of a small cracker on the plain below. What is the cause of this? 3d. In what condition of the atmosphe

sound most distinctly heard? The Hindoos, when gathering in their harvest, before it is removed from the threshing floor, take out the portion for their god However poor, however much in debt. or

portion is first given. Two men in Cincinnati have made a "champion," the one who burd : first, loses

however much the crop may be, the god