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## THE TROUBLESOME NIECE;

OPENING A HARDENED HEART

hard and cold. His clothes were old and ready. patched, and his shoes, even, were sadly | So intent had he been watching the thegainer by the money thus far expended. starting half up in bed, 'I did it! Kate only be helping the community, and asin want of mending.

taxed for only about ten thousand, which tasted the well-prepared food. ing fellow-creature had begged for assist- plate of toust. ance at his hands. Alone had he lived He looked at them, and after a while for many a long year, and his heart was said-'They do look familiar, Kate.' money at bome.

November, the stage stopped in front of the most true and faithful mothers.' helped out by the driver, and a trunk and tos, and a moisture gathered in his eye, bandbox put down after her. The old but 'twas not enough to form a tear. when she was a girl, and here was her better than cold water?" exact image. Kate's mother, was the only sister he ever had, and thus Kate costs more, Kate.'

a severe look passed over his face. who did not love her. She was a short, comfort, too.' plump, laughter-loving being, with brown hair, and hazel eyes, and when she laugh- then Kate proceeded to wash her dishes. ed the dimples deepened in her cheeks and chip, and the dark curls shook about | with her uncle, and for two hours she enher fair temples. In fact, one look at tertained him with accounts of her own her face was as good as medicine for the and her parents' experience. When bed blues, and the ring of her merry laugh time came, she found her cot ready for

had seated berself at the fire, 'are you her arms around her uncle's neck and not glad I've come!

without a home. But mind-you are to keep you.' help me. You won't be an expense to

'Of course I won't. Why I'll tetarn his way by the light of the fire. you tenfold. How snug and happy me will be this winter. You won't be all a-

if I was away among strangers.' are going to find a home here always.'

'Oh, no, dear uncle, but while I do stay will try to make you happy.'

And in like tones did she address the old miser under all circumstances. Ere long she asked her uncle where she could find the materials for supper; she confessed that she was hungry.

am hungry,' he told her. 'But havn't you any tea? or any flour?

or any butter?"

don't use.'

'But you love it, uncle?" 'Why, yes-but it costs too much." 'And sugar-have you any of that?'

'No; I get along very well without it.' 'Then you wait a few minutes, and I'll run out and get some. I saw a store as here.'

net and shawl.

store,' uttered the old man fearfully .---'They won't trust me.'

'Never mind. I have the money .--tea-kettle boils.'

about fifteen minutes she returned, and in her arms she bore quite a heap of little much." packages. A little bundle of flour, a new tip pail full of milk, and so on.

'And so Kate Owen is coming here!' bread. She found a loaf of baker's funds, and if we are likely to run short, lom Burr wiped a tear from his eye said Absalom Burr to himself, as he pac- bread, and having cut it into slices, she we can economize in something else,' ed to and fro in his small dingy spart- placed it near the fire to toast. Then she 'So we can,' said the old man, and thus and saw him. She moved quietly to his ment. 'Why don't she get married and moved out the old table, and after the speaking, he left the house.

light, noiseless movements of the fairy, Thus matters moved on for a week .--- shan't pay me one cent! She shant; sisting a great public good, but you would The cold breath of winter was close at that he did not notice the first call, and The old man watched her every move- bless me if she shall! hand, and yet the only fuel be had was it was not till he had been spoken to a ment, but could see nothing wasted. Ev- And Absalom lay back upon his pil- dred and fifty dollars a year where you of soft coal, dug from its mines or bed in such as he had been able to pick up by second time, that he fairly understood .- ery crumb was cared for and low, and in the night he dreamed that do not now get a cent. And again, when the earth, possessed any other quality the road side, and the edge of the pond. He sat up to the table, and a softer shade he was surprised to see what excellent Martha Allen was an angel, and that she the company have got through with the than being combustible, or was valuable The house in which he lived was but a rested on his features as he cast his eyes dishes she prepared from almost nothing. came to bless him.' It was a sweet cheerpoor hovel with only two rooms, and with over the board. The snowy cloth, the One afternoon when the wind blew ing dream. turniture more fit for firewood than for clean dishes, the steaming tea-pot, the cold, and the snow was falling fast, a Two days afterward Kate proposed as finished, and at fair rents. Think how is also combustible. Chemical analysis anything else. There were four windows light rich-looking toast, and above all, the poor girl rapped at the door, and Kate that they should go and visit Mark Allen. you will thus be benefiting the communi- proved it to be made of hydrogen. In proin the house, and every spare rag of clo- levely presence that presided over the let her in. Her name was Martha Allen, 'For,' said she, 'our presence may cheer ty and at the same time be rendering your- cess of time mechanical ingenuity devised thing that he owned was in use for the scene, were new things in that heretofore and her father was a poor day laborer him.' replacing of broken window panes. And cheerless home. Kate helped him to a who had been confined to his bed for And the old man finally consented to his bed for And the old man finally consented to his bed for And the old man finally consented to his bed for the lighting of buildings and yet Absalom Burr was worth fifty thou- plate of toast and to a cup of tea, and the several months, having been injured while go. They reached the humble cot and dictate. And then again, resumed Kate, as cities on a large scale. In doing this sand dollars, though he contrived to be shade upon his face grew softer as he blasting rocks. Martha was only fifteen, were welcomed in by Martha. They she noticed the doubting look on her uncle's other products of distillation were devel-

was never known to invest a penny in cr and this sugar-bowl, uncle Absalom?" charity, though many a poor and suffer. Kate asked as she helped him to a second

kindly feeling. He spent his time in at- before. Your kind old mother always tending to his rents, picking up wood and used them while she lived, and when she to help him. For three long months he money, but I cannot pay you all, for the found the proper officers, he toldhem he dissolve gutta percha, Indian rubber, etc. rags by the wayside, and counting his died, she gave them to my mother. I has lain in his bed and now he is kept bare money is nothing compared with the could accommodate them with the desired 4. An oil excellent for lubricating purpolove them now, for they are doubly dear back by the fearful thought of the debt knowledge that I have such a generous loan. They were much pleased and in a ses. 5. Asphaltum, which is a black, One Monday evening, near the last of to me, bringing back to my mind one of he will have upon his shoulders when he friend to stretch out his saving hand in short time they had the money in gold solid substance, used in making varnish-

was the only near relative he had living. 'Oh no, uncle it does not cost so much. we ever can repay you, we will.' The girl helped carry her own trunk in, It may take a little more money, but look and as soon as she removed her bonnet, at the comfort and satisfaction it affords, she threw her arm about his neck and and which would be lost without it .-kissed him. He started back at this, and Who so poor as he who has no comforts and joys. But I know what you mean. Kate Owen was a pretty girl, and she | You would be prudent and saving-and had left behind her not one acquaintance so we will be; and yet we will have some

The table was soon cleared away, and

After this she sat down and conversed her, and although she saw how she could 'My dear uncle,' she said, after she better it, yet she said nothing. She put

having kissed him, she said-Well-yes; I shouldn't want you to be Good night uncle. God bless and

> And then she took her candle and went away to bed, leaving the old man to find

How those words hung in the old man's wind. How strange and sweet they were lone to hear the wind blow, and the hail how many long years had passed since thump and rattle against the windows .- he had heard such words before. His get it ?' And I shall feel better, too, than I should thoughts went back to the time when his mother used to kiss him at bedtime, and But you've got to go among strangers for a while he had forgot the long dark some time. You can't expect that you years that had passed away since his boybood days.

dreamed. He dreamed that he was a felt blessing of one honest soul, than all in, and her countenance plainly showed saw was a letter directed to herself, and boy once more, and that his mother was the dresses in the world. To walk forth that she wondered why Absalom Barr in her uncle's band writing. The next with him to care for and love him.

himself, and shortly afterwards came in. tioned; give it to her as your own gift.' She had built a fire in the old fire-place 'There may be a little butter,' said the out in the porch, and the coffe was alreaold man reluctantly; 'but I don't think dy made. She greeted the old man with there is any flour, and tea is something I a happy smile and another kiss. Her your money so, and yet I'll give it to her. sented the very picture of health and hap-

coffee, and a few warm biscuit, was soon ten dollars, and handed it to Martha Alon the table, and as the old man sat down len. that shade upon his face grew softer still. I came by, only a few rods back from After breakfast Kate arose and put her you make good use of it.' arms around his neck, and said-

And as she spoke she put on her bon- Now, uncle, that you have a female in trembling hand, and as she looked at the the house, you ought to sleek up a little- bills--two fives--she was startled. But I don't have any account at the enough for comfort, at any rate. In the first place, we want just seven panes of glass set. Now go to the glazier and have this done at once, for you know Just you see to the fire, and mind that the your own health and comfort will be enhanced thereby.'

And thus speaking, Kate ran out. In 'Yes-well-I have been thinking of 'O, sir, she uttered, catching his band, this for some time Kate; but it costs too and pressing her lips upon them. 'God

absolutely necessary to our health and now and forever!' Her next movement was to hunt up the comfort, and then we will examine our When Martha Allen was gone, Absa-

go about her own business? A plague on leaves were raised she inquired for a ta- And all that afternoon Kate worked neck, she kissed him on the cheek, but stowed away there. her, I say. Ju-t because my sister chose ble-cloth, but the old man had none .-- briskly about the house, with mop, and she did not speak. to marry Jim Owen, and then die and But she was prepared for this and more soap, and water, so that when Absalom An excellent supper was partaken of, leave this girl behind, I must take the too. In her trunk she not only found the came home he was astonished. The floor and in the evening Kate sung some of thing and provide for it. What a fool I cloth, but also a cream pitcher, sugar- was clean and white, the fire-place neat, her sweetest songs to her uncle, and more was ever to tell my sister that I would bowl, and a few other articles of like de- and the new windows let in such a quan- than once while she sang, she saw tears see to her child. Why, here will be my scription, which she kept as remembran- tity of light that it seemed like a new in his eyes. house turned topsy-turvy and everything ces of her mother. The white cloth was room. Kate got such a dinner as she That night when Absalom Burr laid like peace fly out of the windows. And spread, the dishes put on, and then Kate was able to pick up, and the afternoon his head upon his pillow, he had a new then I suppose the first thing I'll find her hunted up the stew-pan. This she clean- was spent in mending some of her uncle's emotion, and it was a strange one to him spending money. Not a penny-no, not ed, and having fixed it on the fire, she old clothes. He came in towards the -yet it was a sweet and blessed one .one. She says she can sew, and she proceeded to prepare a dip for the toast, middle of the afternoon, and she told him He had done a deed of charity, and the ey.' shall. By the host, she don't touch a which she made of butter, milk and wa- she was out of flour. He proposed get- blessings of that poor but noble girl rung penny of mine. And if she stays here, ter, thickened with a little flour. She ting two pounds, but she finally made him in his ears and dropped upon his soul; she will do my sewing to pay for house found Absalom's dishes hidden away in see that it would be to his interest to get and he immagined he could hear the room, and do my cooking and washing to various places, as though stuck away a barrel. It came hard to pay out six prayers of Mark Allen ascending to Heapay for her victuals. A plague on the from the sight of tax-gatherers. But dollars for a barrel of flour, but he did it; ven in his behalf. He knew Mark Allen there was more of them than she had im- and while he was about it, he got a pound for an honest, industrious, steady, hard-Thus spoke Absalom and then he sat agined, though they all had to undergo a of tea, a pound of coffee, a dollar's worth working man, and he felt sure that Mark thousand and let them have it. Have not the only ones who were blessed by the down and stuck his feet close up to the sort of washing process before they were of sugar, and some other little things .- would pray for him. Surely the thought | you not five thousand more lying idle opening of the hardened heart. No-far fire. Absalom Burr was a perfect miser. put on the tea-table. Finally the toast These be had sent home, and when he was a blessed one. His face was deeply furrowed by the was done, the tea made, and then uncle came to sit down to his supper of light But stop! Who gave that saving gift? hand of passing time, and its lines were Absalom was informed that supper was warm biscuit, and taste the fragrant tea, Who did that deed of charity! he really confessed to bimself that he was 'By the saints!' murmured the old man,

was invested in houses in the town. He 'Don't you remember this cream pitch. She had come to see if Mr. Burr could chair which a neighbor had sent in, and know that your money is safe, than to be gredients or materials are extracted from not help her father.

man asked nervously. gone out to beg for him,' returned the stood in his eyes: 'I can never pay you of it. And he did think of it to some and combined with vapor or moist air, is all bardened and closed up against every 'Ay, uncle, you have seen them often girl; 'but I could not bear to see him suf- for the noble kindness you have shown purpose, for on the very next morning used for the purpose of portable gas lamps fer so in body and mind, without trying me. I may at some time pay you the he started off for P-, and having so called. 3. Naptha-a heavy fluid, to gets up. But thus far I have not run him the hour of gloom and misery.' the love of mercy, give me something. If been of service to a suffering fellow.'

would not miss it, while-made of money?

leaving the poor girl alone.

'And who's to reward me, child ?'

Give her ten dollars 'san alla

and if at the end of six months you want ow-but if you refuse me, I won't move when uncle Absalom returned, and un- per part of a cellar-to a small family, it back, I will pledge myself to see it paid.' a step only towards home.'

The old man went to his bed and O, I would rather have the free, heart- daughter. She arose as the visitors came and opened the box. The first thing she and feel that I am loved for the good I do, called. But she saw an angel in Kate's was a costly embossed ebony casket, In the morning he was aroused by the were better far than millions of money mild blue eyes. notes of a sweet, blithe song. He started piled away in dark corners. Go and up as he heard the same beautiful song give her ten dollars, and keep me to my 'I eat some bread and cheese when I which his mother used to sing in her hap- promise, for I will not break it. But Gradually the uncle and niece drew forth lom. Below this was a small book, and piest moments. He arose and dressed mind you-my name must not be men- the story of the woman's sufferings, and by looking into it she discovered that on

'But when will you pay me?'

'When you ask for it.' 'I think it is foolish to throw away 'No, sir.'

The old man returned, and having A breakfast of dry toast and butter, pulled out his pocket-book, he drew out

'Here,' said he, 'take this and see that

'You have made a mistake,' she said.'

'How so ?'

'You have given me ten dollars.' 'So I meant, girl.'

A moment the child gazed into the old man's face, and then she burt into tears. bless you for this! You know not what 'Never mind that, uncle Absalom .- joy will illumine my poor father's heart package of tea, some sugar, and a small Let us first have those things which are when he hears of this! God bless you

Kate looked up through her own tears side, and putting her soft arms about his

the visitors. 'Oh, sir, he does not know that I have Mr. Burr,' he said, while big tears point, and Absalom said he would think ethereal-fluid, which evaporates easily,

Absalom's hut, and a young female was Absalom Burr gazed upon the momen- in debt, though he thinks I have, and I 'Talk not of money to me,' returned notes and good security. He went home 6. Parafine - a white, crystaline substance dare not wholly undeceive him, for fear uncle Absalom earnestly and warmly .- with a better opinion of his fellow men resembling wax, which can be made into that I must do so. We have spent every 'If it served you, I am already more than and of himself than be had ever before had beautiful wax candles; it melts at a temman had not seen her for ten years, but 'Now, uncle,' spoke Kate, as they were cent he had laid up, and I have worked repaid. The blessings of man are cheap- for he had been thanked by noble men perature of 110 degrees, and affords an he remembered how his sister had looked about to rise from the table, 'isn't this bard and sold many of my things; but I ly purchased when so slight a sum can for his kindness, and his opinion had excellent light. All these sub-tances are have nothing more to sell, and all my do it; and moreover, I have been more been asked on various important matters, now made from the soft coal of Kentucky, 'Yes, yes, it tastes a little better, but it time must be spent with him. O, sir, for than repaid by the very knowledge have and he had partly promised, too, that if and manufactured by a company at Cloves-

> Even Kate was surprised at this; but 'But what would you have, girl?' said she knew that it was real, and was glad. the old man, moving uneasily in his chair. When they arose to depart at the end 'A dollar, sir, or two dollars. You of an hour, Martha followed them to the door, and there she blessed the old man which Kate had first come. On the in his hand that he holds concentrated 'Not miss it! And do you think I am again. He was moved by a generous im- morning of the day which saw the sixth therein all these different ingredients pulse, and he took a golden half eagle At this moment Kate left the room, from his pocket and handed it to her.

'No, sir,' she said, drawing ber hand 'Uncle Absalom, you must not send back, - what you have already given us that poor child away empty handed, she will suffice until father gets out. But said, placing both hands upon his shoul- there is one who would be blessed with ders. 'Just think of her poor father, and the gift, and if you will permit me, I will of how much she suffers for him. You relinquish the gift in her behalf. The are able, and as sure as you give in widow Wildridge is very low and her charty to her, so sure shall you be rewar. daughter is sick. I carried them over some food this morning and found them quite destitute.' signam seriem

Your own thoughts and feelings, un- But uncle Absalom was a stubbern

man and would have his own way. 'Take this,' he said, and we may 'Ten dollars! Mercy, Kate, you would another for Mrs. Weldridge. Your fath- kling in the old man's eye which meant er will not be able to work for some time more than the ten dollars amount to.

can see a poor, honest man suffering, found the mother, a woman of some fifty when by any means he may be blessed. years, sitting by the bedside of her sick

widow, this may serve to lighten your her in whole or in part, at will. As soon burden some. I am able while you are as she could see clearly through her tears, cheeks were all a glow, and her face pre- You won't come to me for dresses though?' needy. Take it, and remember that you she opened her unte's letter and read as may look to me again when need comes follows: upon you.'

ey, and having gazed first upon the char- heart was all cold and hard, and closed bowed her head and thanked God for the my fellows, and saw no good in humaniblessing. And then, while the tears gush- ty. My life path was dark and gloomy, The poor girl took the money with a ed forth, she caught the old man by the and a chill night was upon my soul. But

uncle what that dark vault was for.

alarm. 'The door was partly open.' 'I did forget to lock it. I remember who may claim you, that you cannot go

'But what is it, uncle?' The old man finally confessed to Kate Your Uncle, that he had over twenty thousand dollars

let it lie there in the dark without use.' and as she kissed him, she simply whis-But if the assessors knew it, they would pered, 'God bless you; I will never own a make me pay taxes upon it.'

Just think of it?'

railroad company just advertising for a him with a noble constitution, he was spry loan of twenty-five thousand dollars at and strong. five per cent. You can make up the five | And Absalom Burr and his niece were

somewhere ?'

'Then look at it. Thus you would not at the same time be realizing twelve hun-

the new road wanted more help, he would por in that State. They have twelve re-

give it on all or similar tore came into the room where her uncle sat, merican. and in her hand she held a ten dollar

member who, I told you when you gave appeared Biddy with the article in her that ten delars to Martha Allen ! The hand. Said the master: "Never again six monies are up, and I have come to bring me anything in your hand. You redeca my promise. Here is the money.' should have brought it on a plate." The

rook the bill and put it in his pocket .- gain rung, and the faithful domestic a-'I am glad you are so punctual.' That gain appeared. "I want my slippers." was all he said, and then he took his Biddy went, and returned, hearing in her hat and went out. Kate was puzzled, hand a plate, upon which were the priest's find but not astonished, for she noticed a twin- slippers!

'Hear me out. Give her ten dollars, yet. If you will, I will call on the wid- It was near the middle of the afternoon lowing advertisement: To let-The upder his arm he carried a small box which rent low. P. S .- Privilege on the side-'You see it paid? Where will you Martha took the money with tearful he gave to Kate, saying as he did so: walk for a pig. eyes, and Mr. Burr heard more blessings . Here, Kate, that is for you-the first 'I have more than that; money laid as he turned away. Widow Wildridge's present from your uncle.' There was a

She hurried away to her little room able principle.

within which she found a gold watch and Absalom and the widow were play- chain, with a small locket attached, withmates once, and the ice was soon broken. in which was a minature of uncle Absathen the old man took out his pocket- that very day the sum of three thousand book, and took therefrom fifteen dollars. dollars had been deposited in her name,

'ilere,' he said, as he handed it to the at six per cent interest, to be drawn by

Mechanically the woman took the mon- 'MY DEAR KATE .- Six moths ago my med notes and then upon the donor, she to every kindly emotion. I distrusted all hand and poured forth her thanks. you came to me with sunlight and joy, When Absalom Burr sat down to his and by your sweet music and gentle persupper that night, that shade upon his sussions my heart was opened, and the face was as soft as the radience of the warm light of love entered, and since setting sun. His food was eaten with a then some good has escaped from that okeen relish, and he could now return pened heart. And now to you, who per-Kate's smile. And on that, night too, his formed this happy work, I give the acdreams were more pleasant than ever. companying as a slight token of my love Some time during the next day, Kate for you and of my appreciation of your came up from the cellar and asked her many virtues. But you will not leave me. Perhaps at some time you may be 'How did you find it?' cried he in quick called upon to enter a new and holier partnership, but I beg of you not to forget me. Tell the happy, blessed man

death without you. ABSALOM BURR. When Kate next met her uncle, her eyes were red with weeping, and her 'Why uncle, is it possible? And you cheeks were wet. She moved to his side

without me; for my life would be a living

home where you may not go.' Kate was about to give utterance to a When the warm breath of summer very indignant response, but she held it came, the old man moved into a good back' and went and sat down by the old house, and not long afterwards. Kate gave her hand to an industrious mechanic-a 'Now look here, uncle Absalom, how earpenter by trade. And then came the much would you be taxed for that mon- business. Absalom found the money and Kate's busband found the skill, and 'Over one hundred dollars a year .- new houses went up in the thriving village. The old man was busy now, and 'Yes, and think of this: Here is the as his simple, ab-temious life had left

from it. Hundreds there were who bas-'Perhaps so,' said the old man, thought- ked in the warm sunlight of the noble charity that flowed from the ample source which Kate's gentle hand had opened,

Mysteries of a Lump of Coal.

For years no one supposed that a piece money, you can build houses here in this for any other purpose than as fuel. It town, every one of which will let as soon was next found that it afforded a gas which self more able to bestow in charity in a mode of manufacturing this gas and apand was a mild, blue-eyed, pretty girl .- found old Mark sitting in a great stuffed face 'how much easier you would feel to oped, until step by step, the following inthough he looked pale and wan, yet a worrying all the while for fear that some it :- 1. An excellent oil to supply light-'Why should he send to me!' the old warm smile suffused his face, as he saw one will come in the night and rob you. bouses, equal to the best sperm oil, at This last hit touched the vulnerable lower cost. 2. Benzole-a light sort of and current bills, and Absalom had the es, covering roofs and covering vaults .-

> prts in operation day and night, consu-Six months passed away, and the trou- ming eight or ten tons of coal every twenblesome niece still lived with her uned ty-four hours. One can hardly realize, They also occupied the same house into as he takes a lump of heavy, smutty coal mouth from the time of giving the ten chained within, and which a little heat dollars to Martha Allen rass away, Kate properly applied will liberate .- North A-

"Biddy, bring me some salt."---'Uncle Absalom,' she said, 'do you re- "Sure and I will, riverance." Forthwith "bank you,' said the old men, as he evening meal being over, the bell was a-

A late Dublin paper contains the fol-

"It is aisy enough," said Pat, "to build up to buy clothes with.' dwelling was not far off, and thither the tear in his eye, and his voice trembled; a chimney; you hold one brick up and put 'I can go without clothes easier than I pucle and nicee turned their steps. They and when the bright eyed girl kissed him another under it." A good many people he wept outright, undertake to build fortunes on this equit-