YORKVILLE, S. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1876.

VOL. 22.

Selected Loctry.

JOHN JANKIN'S SERMON. The minister said last night, says he, "Don't be afraid of givin';
If your life ain't nothing to other folks,
Why, what's the use o' livin '?'' And that's what I say to wife, says I,
There's Brown, the mis'rable sinner,
He'd sooner a beggar would starve than give A cent toward buyin' a dinner.

I tell you our minister's prime, he is, But I couldn't quite determine, When I heard him a givin' it right and left, Just who was hit by his sermon.

Of course, there couldn't be no mistake

When he talked of long-winded prayin',

For Peters and Johnson, they sot and scowled

At every word he was sayin'.

And the minister he went on to say, "There's various kinds o' cheatin' And religion's as good for every day As it is to bring to meetin'. I don't think much of a man that gives The Lord amens at my preachin', And spends his time the followin' week In cheatin' and overreachin'."

I guess that dose was bitter enough For a man like Jones to swaller; But I noticed he didn't open his mouth, But once, after that, to holler. Hurrah! says I, for the minister, Of course I said it quiet; Give us some more of this open talk; It's very refreshing diet.

The minister hit 'em every time; And when he spoke of fashion, And a riggin' out in bows and things, As woman's rulin' passion, And a comin' to church to see the styles, I couldn't help a winkin', And a nudgin' my wife, and says I, "That's you," And I guess it sot her thinkin'

Says I to myself, That sermon's pat, But man is a queer creation; And I'm much afraid that most o' folks, Won't take the application. Now if he had said a word about My personal mode o' sinnin', I'd have gone to work to right myself, And not set her a grinnin'.

Just then the minister says, says he, "And now I've come to the fellers Who've lost this shower by usin' their friends As sort o' moral umbrellers. Go home," say he, "and find your faults, In stead of huntin' your brothers'; Go home," says he, "and wear the coats You've tried to fit for others."

My wife, she nudged, and Brown, he winked, And there was lots o' smilin', And lots o' lookin' at our pew ; It sot my blood a bilin', Says, I to myself, our minister Is gittin' a little bitter; I'll tell him when meetin's out that I

Ain't at all that kind of critter.

An Original Story. PICCIOLA.

A THRILLING STORY OF WESTERN LIFE.

BY MRS. HENRY DEAS. CHAPTER I.

"My dear Esther; surely, you cannot be earnest-you are not really bent upon taking his acquaintanceship with Esther Leighton, this rash step!"

a rash step, aunt Lizzie," calmly rejoined the ed, but in this case very suitable phrase, he softly by Raymond into her willing ear. He enhance its sweetness of expression—and that engaged in menial offices, and I feel like a Heaven, the meaning of the name, when I come to her if I had known she wished it." young lady addressed, a beautiful blonde of almost immediately fell over head and ears in was more lover-like now even than in the reminds me, by-the-by, that he told me yesas she spoke, from the embroidery on which she was engaged.

quaintanceship yours with Mr. Raymond has several advantageous offers of marriage—was companionship seemed to draw them nearer wish I could disabuse you of your prejudice

"Pardon me, aunt: I have a very clear insight into his character."

is that possible, under the circumstances?" "Under what circumstances?"

"All the circumstances of our intercourse

his past life."

count is to be relied on?"

gant and unwarrantable."

"It only expresses what I feel," replied the run over a precipice, she'll do it." young lady, resuming her former calm tone, though her agitation was still apparent in her shortly. "Suppose she breaks her neck." quickly-coming breath and the unsteadiness we shall never agree in this matter."

every means to convince you of the injustice engagement was scarcely three weeks old! upon his chin. His features, though large, er dislike nor mistrust him." of your opposition, and failed, what am I to do?" Of course the affair created a sensation in so- were rather symmetrical than otherwise, but

are interested in your welfare." said Esther, somewhat bitterly. "I do not mained unmoved through them all. Quietly by a sword or other sharp weapon; and, inthink I need distress myself on the score of the and without any fuss, her preparations were deed, to judge from the appearance of the must own that I look upon them merely as an

manner, considering the care and kindness she washed her hands of the whole matter. likely supposition that he had, in the course me," she rejoined with energy. "And I do

and I am sure I have no wish to appear un- the fear, which in her mind amounted almost about him that indicated a readiness not only grateful," said Esther, softening. "But what to a certainty, that the latter was wilfully to stand on the defensive when occasion re-I mean is—and you cannot deny that it is throwing away her chances of happiness in life. quired it; but, perhaps, to rush with unculled-member, I have not had you with me all these really so-that there are, in truth, but few people to whom my actions are of much impor- Paul," Esther said to her lover one day, not hand, he was superflously ceremonious and pothe remotest and most uncivilized spot on the to me," was his rejoinder. "What need we it became evident that he had selected the

Providence for depriving you of your nearest We will live a blissful little world of our own." Esther, offering her every dainty within relatives; and I am sure your uncle and I have "And suppose, after you get me out into reach, and at other times would seek the sodone all that we could to supply their loss to that wild western country, you should tire of ciety of her husband and herself, and endeavyou, ever since you were placed under our me, and go off and leave me alone among the or, by the most polished arts of conversation, care. And I think you owe it to us now to be savages," said Esther, jestingly. "What to ingratiate himself in their favor; Yet all guided by our wishes and our judgment, in a would become of me then?" matter of such importance as your settlement Paul Raymond's manner suddenly grew found deference, and almost estentations hu-

"Aunt Lizzie, you would not bid me disobey "Without a single one," she answered, read- acquaintanceship. Esther conceived an in- to her husband; and she trusted that some with alacrity into the house. The first care that no conduct, however unnatural, surprised civilized and refined society.

not as safe a guide as the judgment and expe- may come over our sky, as they sometimes his feelings by the display of an uncalled for establish between them. not as sale aguite as the judgment and early stand and its come even into the brightest and happiest prejudice on their part. Willing to accept Raymond's home lay in a luxuriant valley, age, lacking but a few inches of Esther's own witch and close the bargain she was so anxious to stay and eat something, he promptly re-

the wickedness of human nature?" "Very little-and I hope it will not soon be increased," rejoined Esther lightly. "Dear

aunt, please don't think me obstinate and headstrong; but give up this gloomy view of things, and believe me, when I assure, you that ly, my fancy is less morbid than hers." I am not acting as rashly as you suppose. It selor after all.

"I wish, indeed, that I could think so," was strong inclination to indulge in a laugh; for it must be owned that she had in her disposition a considerable share of mirthfulness, or of what her aunt termed levity, and was nev- and it took place quietly, in the morning, in of any question. Notwithstanding this light which did not tally with her wishes; nor had her ideas better to have as little display on admiration she had inspired! she the least intention now of yielding to the the occasion as possible. There was a pretty opposition brought to bear upon her, although lunch, with a huge bride-cake, and some little she was anxious to modify the displeasure she ceremony in the way of drinking toasts, which was causing, by every means in her power, both bride and groom found very tiresome.

ent discussion to a favorable close. into the state of affairs in question, it may be that afternoon. well to go back a few weeks previous to the riod Mr. Paul Raymond had first made his her last farewell. "She actually did not shed appearance in the circles of New York society. a tear." He came from the wilds of the West, where he reported himself to have been living for the past ten years; but was a perfect specimen that she has got her own way?" of polished courtesy and good breeding, though indulging in a certain freedom of to obstinacy and self-will, are very hard to be speech, and not ungraceful carelessness of put up with," rejoined his wife. manner which signalized a more unrestrained He was eminently handsome, and his conver- "One thing is, my dear, she'll be dying to come tance with all the current topics of the day. less, if it's any consolation to you to think so." Had he possessed few attractions, people would soon have ceased to trouble themselves about him; but as it was, speculation was rife concerning him. By some he was reported to be the owner of extensive gold and silver

mines, which were the source of inexhaustible wealth. Others pronounced him a mere ad- of the finest which plied between New York alliance with some wealthy and aristocratic was fortunately a good sailor, and did not, family. It was a noticeable fact that nearly therefore, suffer from that most distressing and all the young ladies to whom he was introduced conceived an immediate liking and admiration for him; while the fathers and moth- ous weather on the way, she was never debarhold somewhat aloof, as though deeming it or from partaking of the bountiful and really prudent not to encourage the advances of one sumptuous fare which the captain's care had of whom they knew so little. Apparently, provided. When the rough winds abated, Mr. Raymond was equally indifferent to admiration and to mistrust. He was genial and glory, shed an enchanting sheen over the maintained a quiet dignity which asserted its claims to consideration and respect. This leave it for the cramped walls of her state-"But every one does-every one must con- and modest of reigning belles, and one, more amid the adverse circumstances of their presider it so. Only think what a very brief ac- over, who had already received and refused vious intercourse. Each added day of their been ; too brief to give you any insight into his guilty of the extreme indecorum of having suffered herself to fall in love with him in return. of the wisdom of her choice. How often she The delight and triumph of the suitor, and smiled at the remembrance of the fears and

liberty to make her own choice; but Mrs. happiness! Her quiet but deep nature yieldwith him. His coming among us as a perfect Pembroke, her father's sister, who had prided ed itself absorbingly to the claims of this first, stranger; our entire ignorance of his antece- herself upon being the pink of propriety all sacred passion; and those peaceful days on dents-in fact of everything connected with her life, considered it her duty to warn her most solemnly against the rashness of her con- each other, learning each other's inmost hearts, "I am not ignorant of his antecedents. He duct, and to protest, with all the vehemence and exchanging sweet confidences, without one has told me all about himself, and all about of which she was capable, against the match untoward influence to mar the completeness til we could find an opportunity of going toshe contemplated making. Argument, en. of their enjoyment, were full of the most pure gether in quest of General K-. "But what guarantee have you that his actireaty, reproof, all alike proved vain. Esther and perfect happiness she had ever known, was as resolute inwardly, as she was outwardly and often recurred afterwards to her memory, seizing his hand. "Don't ask him to go with "The guarantee of his own word-of his mild and gentle; and although sincerely re- as days of golden light set apart from much honor as a gentleman," roudly rejoined gretting the disapproval of her uncle and overwhelming darkness and gloom. Ether, a bright, indignant flush rising to her aunt, was evidently bent upon carrying her cheek, and the tremor of her voice betraying, point. Mr. Pembroke was less determined in unusual, for everything was new and interestfor the first time, the emotion that stirred her his opposition than his better half. He was an ing now to our heroine, who was in the mood heart. "I trust Paul Raymond implicitly, and indolent man, and always found contention of for culling a charm from the most commonwould as soon lose my faith in heaven, as suf- any kind troublesome; so when it became place events—occurred during the first part tone. "I was only anxious to make some at your feet a fortune that will amply comfer one doubt of his truth to pollute my mind!" plain to him that his niece's mind was thor- of the voyage, which terminated prosperously "Esther-Esther! You do not reflect upon oroughly made up, he was willing to let her at the Isthmus, after a duration of four weeks. I spoke to you beforehand about it. Of course what you say," exclaimed her aunt in a hor- alone. "My dear," he said to his wife, "when "Really, such language is almost a stubborn woman gets the bit between her ferred, with their belongings, to the "Queen of impious-it is, to say the least, most extrava- teeth, you may as well drop the bridle and the West," waiting there to receive them. let her take her course. If she has a fancy to Among the passengers who embarked on

more easily imagined than described.

of the hand which guided her needle through I, for one, see no use in making a commotion ly, though expressing himself with tolerable we had better not argue the point any farther. what is bound to happen must happen, in opportunity of conversing with any one who tress of the field. The marriage was fixed for hanging brows. His face was closely shaved, "Certainly it does. But when I have tried the first of June. It was now May, and the with the exception of a short peaked beard you know—and as to the man himself, I neith-Yield to my wishes, like a dutiful girl, and ciety, and Mrs. Grundy, as usual, had plenty with a decidedly sinister expression, which give up this wild scheme, which can only re- to say. Speculation, wonder, criticism, disap- was not modified, but rather made worse, by sult in wretchedness to yourself and to all who proval, pity, all had full play; but Esther, in a frightful scar extending over his left cheek "The number of those is small enough," broke took care should reach her ears, re- This was apparently the result of a gash made carried on, chiefly under her own supervision; Señor Pedro Alasquez-for such he an involuntary tribute to your charms.' "I think you are ungrateful to speak in that for her aunt, in her displeasure, declared that nounced his name to be-it seemed a not unwhich have been bestowed upon you from She did not, however, openly quarrel with his life, been engaged in more than one con- wish, Paul, that you would not be led into Esther. She was really fond of her, after her test of no childish character. There was an any intimacy with him. Something tells me Paul! are you in earnest?" "You have been very kind to me, aunt; own fashion, and her anger arose chiefly from air of defiant recklessness and braggadocio that he will prove no true friend."

"You will have to be a great deal to me, for ardor into an affray. Yet, on the other years to keep me out of mischief."

care for the displeasure or disapproval of out- Raymonds as the objects of his special atten-"Well, you certainly cannot quarrel with siders, while we have each other to care for? tion. At table he waited assiduously upon

"You have but just entered your twenty- the same sweet assurance, again and again, her good graces.

unchanged."

"Remember, I am not presaging evil," he is really my heart, and not my fancy, which rejoined. "God forbid that it should ever have you prepared to meet it bravely.'

"I am not afraid, so long as we can meet it lighter topic. But how often, in later days, arose. did it recur to her mind.

the door and they were driven to the wharf, In order to give the reader a clearer insight to embark on the steamer which was to sail

"Unnatural girl," said Mrs. Pembroke. as commencement of his narrative, at which pe- she turned from the door, after waving them

> "Why should she cry?" placidly questioned Mr. Pembroke. "Ought she not to be glad "But coldness and indifference, in addition

"It's the way with all womankind," said mode of life than that followed by the inhabi- Mr. Pembroke, who did not entertain a very

CHAPTER II. The steamer "Gen. Jackson," on which the bridal pair embarked, was, in those days, one depressing malady, sea-sickness; so that although they encountered some rather boister-"waste of waters" around them, she would sit room, which, in the day-time, she seldom enthe displeasure and dismay of the lady's guar- doubts her friends had entertained, and the So you imagine; but, my dear child, how dians, on making this discovery, may both be endeavors of her aunt to dissuade her from taking the step which, she felt assured, would Esther was of age, and, therefore, quite at result in the attainment of her highest earthly ship-board, when they two were all in all to in store for her.

Nothing of interest-that is to say, nothing him to our house." Here they crossed to Panama, and were trans- he never dreamed of receiving the invitation,

of all on board. He was apparently of Span- of having him with us longer than is neces- trash, compared with other things." "Well, then, it must be broken-that's all. ish extraction, speaking that language fluent- sary." this was done with an appearance of such pro- good-naturedly, the disagreeable subject was

tune darkens our path, your heart will remain degree of languor and inertia stole over Es- abode, earning a scanty livelihood by trading garded herself in the glass, after her toilet "I assure you she was willing enough to get "If aunt Lizzie could hear you, all her cheerful elasticity of spirit she had hitherto grimages into more populous regions, to sell beauty, which became more apparant, now suppose she ever owned fifty dollars in her gloomy forebodings would be increased ten- displayed. An inexplicable melancholy op- the products of their small farms. fold," said Esther, with a laugh. "Fortunate-pressed her, and Raymond, fearing she might Had Esther been of a less buoyant dispofeatures were delicate and regular, her eyes mention of such a sum."

The time appointed for the wedding came, and her aversion to him daily acquired greater sky rivalling that of Italy in its clear and picture of one of the old masters, which had ately anxious to cancel all claim she has upon er disposed to linger long on the serious side the presence of a few intimate friends. Mrs. seemed blinded to all suspicion; all fear that encompassed it—the distance from civiliza- evening, mistress and maid had struck up a the matter beyond dispute. Pembroke, relenting at the last, would have this devotion was prompted by any but the tion—the half-savage domestics who were the fast friendship, though unable to give it ex- "And suppose you repent of the bargain afhad it a more brilliant affair; but her niece re- purest and most disinterested motives, and only attainable ones in the neighborhood, and pression in words. The one was as eager to terwards, Esther?" ing her own against any opinion or influence fused to accede to this proposition. It suited even jested with her upon the unlooked for whose uncouth appearance and almost unin-

"Esther, my love," he said to her one day, your esteem."

quite willing to be convinced of any error of mine which you may choose to point out."

"Well, he has done, or rather is going to do, whose friendship would be of inestimable value to me, especially in a political point of view; and he has promised to present me to him at prove no labor, but a delight. the earliest possible opportunity."

"Is that all?" asked Esther in a disappoint

ed tone. "All! You unreasonable child! I think it tants of populous and long-settled regions. high opinion of the merits of the female sex. is a great deal. General K— is one of the most prominent men in our part of the world sation gave evidence of his thorough acquain- home again in three months' time, or even and yet, by a run of ill-fotrune, as it seems, there has always been some impediment in the way of my coming in contact with him. Sevtempts to meet him; and now the opportunity of an introduction, through an intimate friend, is too good a one to be thrown aside."

"But," said Esther, speaking slowly, as if venturer, depending on his own personal and Aspinwall; and Esther found herself pro- reluctant to cast a damper upon his enthusiqualification to ingratiate himself into popular vided with so many comforts as almost to do asm, "how can you tell that this talked of took pains to enforce, were dismissed; and the proved an equal gratification to them both. favor, and perhaps secure an advantageous away with the inconveniences of sea-life. She friendship really exists? What proof have two who were retained gave indications of a

you that this Alasquez is speaking the truth?"
"I did not know that you were of so suspicious a nature," said Raymond, laughing. "My motto is, believe the best of a person until you find out the worst. I wonder that ers, for the most part, showed an inclination to red from enjoying the freedom of the vessel, you ventured to marry me, as I could give no plished in a way that was scarcely better than pronunciation, and various puzzling mistakes itation, only to find it untenanted. It's occuproof but my own word of not being an impostor."

"Ah! Paul, that was so different."

consists. "The idea of comparing yourself with that

to whom he was presented at a public ball, tered at all. During these tranquil night is really too bad. It bears the impress of a "I am not bent upon taking what I consider and with whom, to use a somewhat hackney- watches, many were the fond vows poured very ugly wound, which certainly does not it," he replied. "It distresses me to see you and with whom, to use a somewhat hackney- watches, many were the fond vows poured very ugly wound, which certainly does not it," he replied. "It distresses me to see you and with whom, to use a somewhat hackney- watches, many were the fond vows poured very ugly wound, which certainly does not it," he replied. "It distresses me to see you and with whom, to use a somewhat hackney- watches, many were the fond vows poured very ugly wound, which certainly does not it," he replied. "It distresses me to see you and with whom, to use a somewhat hackney- watches, many were the fond vows poured very ugly wound, which certainly does not it," he replied. "It distresses me to see you and with whom, to use a somewhat hackney- watches, many were the fond vows poured very ugly wound, which certainly does not it," he replied. "It distresses me to see you and with whom, to use a somewhat hackney- watches, many were the fond vows poured very ugly wound, which certainly does not it," he replied. "It distresses me to see you and with whom, to use a somewhat hackney- watches, many were the fond vows poured very ugly wound, which certainly does not it," he replied. "It distresses me to see you and with whom, to use a somewhat hackney- watches, many were the fond vows poured very ugly wound, which certainly does not it," he replied. "It distresses me to see you and with whom, to use a somewhat hackney- watches, many were the fond vows poured very ugly wound, which certainly does not it, "It distresses me to see you and the properties of the properties watches, who is not a see you and the properties watches, who is not a see you and the properties watches, which was not a see you and the properties watches, which was not a see you are the properties where the properties watches, where the properties watches, which was not a s some two-and-twenty years, raising her eyes, love. And it was not very long before he days of their brief courtship; finding in their terday how that wound was obtained, and it ury and ease, to toil in this wilderness, just recollect a part of what she told me." managed to assure himself that the object of present surroundings more scope for the ex-reflects great credit upon him. I believe he for my sake!" his regard—one of the most quiet, decorous pression of his devotion than he had done is a good-hearted, well-meaning fellow, though somewhat uncivilized and queer; and he really seems to have taken quite a fancy to me. I

against him." "I cannot help feeling as I do; but it need not worry you. Paul, since it does not interfere in any way with your plans."

"But it may interfere with a plan I had thought of," said Raymond, hesitatingly; "for I would not do anything against your

"What plan was that?" she asked, not without a foreboding of something unpleasant "I did think of inviting him to accompany

us home-just to remain for a day or so, un-"Oh, Paul, don't!" she cried impulsively, us, whatever you do. Appoint some place to

object to it so strongly," he replied gently, though with a touch of disappointment in his slight return of his courtesy; but I am glad

so it will make no difference to him." "I dislike so much to oppose your wishes," this vessel, was an individual from the inte- think me very unreasonable; but, indeed, I but a help to you. Besides, I don't care a was because I was a wicked girl, my grand- at the avarice which could make capital out said Esther in a troubled tone. "I know you "Nonsense, Mr. Pembroke," said the lady rior, who immediately attracted the attention cannot overcome my repugnance to the idea pin about money. I think it is very useless mother said.

"On the whole, you may be right," said her work. "But, indeed, aunt Lizzie, I think about it. It's ordained by fate, I suppose, and accuracy in English also, and never losing an Raymond. "One thing is certain, at any rate; it will be infinitely more agreeable to me to Our ideas are so entirely different, that I fear spite of all that you and I can do." Mrs. would give him a chance to do so. He was have you all to myself, when we get home, saddle behind, whom he assisted to dismount, go back to her again?" Pembroke, thus reduced to the necessity of almost gigantic in height, powerfully built, than to be annoyed by the presence of any and led towards his wife as she stood waiting "And does it cause you no pain, Esther, to carrying on the battle alone, was finally forced find that I disapprove of the course you are to give it up in despair, leaving Esther misency-one has to be a little politic sometimes,

> cisive tone. "I know it, little skeptic that you are!

But I shall not quarrel with you again on spite of the many comments which Mrs. Pem- from the corner of his mouth to his eye-brow. that score. Ishall take care that he does not persecute you with his attentions after we land, since they vex you so much; though I "Involuntary or not, they are hateful to

little counselor," said Raymond lightly.

"Now you are laughing at me, Paul; but

guide, as a general rule," replied Raymond; "only in matters of expediency, or where my interest is concerned, my judgment may, perhaps, be better than yours.'

"Perhaps," said Esther, with a doubtful air, her back." that made her husband laugh; and in a little

ther which robbed her completely of the with the Indians, and making occasional pil- was completed. Esther was struck by her rid of her on such favorable terms. I don't

fall ill, became, for a time, seriously alarmed. sition, and less in a mood to find everything wonderful in their sweetness of expression As they entered a cooler temperature, howev- couleur de rose, she might have felt some dis- and depth of color, and when the lids were did not return, for a cloud was cast over her furnished; and nothing could be more beauti- braids below her waist. These, for conve- high, her anxiety to obtain it at once knew no the reply, in a tone almost sepulchral in its together," was her reply. He said no more spirits which she could not banish, though ful than the landscape around, abounding in nience sake, Esther bound around her head, bounds." solemnity, and which aroused in Esther a at the time, and the conversation passed to a herself ignorant of the source from whence it luxuriant vegetation, brilliant with tropical fastened them with a crimson ribbon, which coloring, with the peaks of the grand Sierras set off to advantage the dark but rich color feel more and more convinced that she is not The Spaniard haunted her like a shadow, lifting themselves in the distance against a of her complexion, and made her look like a actually related to Picciola, and proportionforce. Yet, by a strange fatuity, her husband perfect blue; but the entire solitude which stepped out of an antique frame. Before her. Do go, this very day, Paul, and settle ter hopelessness theidea of ever training them given her, that Esther felt convinced that she and prove less worthy than you now believe approaching her when she was alone, "I bring into a proper knowledge of household duties— had found a treasure in her, and could not be her to be. Suppose she turns out dishonest, you a piece of news which ought to convince all these, and many other disadvantages, of sufficiently grateful to her husband for havyou of your injustice in regard to our gallant fering so striking a contrast to the comforts ing picked her up. In a few days' time she with such a burden on your hands—sell her and was especially anxious to bring the pres. And when it was over, the carriage came to friend, and restore him to his former place in and conveniences of the life Esther had hith- had entered completely into the routine which off to somebody else? erto enjoyed, might not unreasonably have cast a slight damper over his spirits, and task faithfully, zealously, and in order; and act!" rejoined Esther in much indignation. my esteem," said Esther smiling; but I am somewhat dimmed the brightness with which so quick was her comprehension, so rapid her "You know me better than really to think so. anticipation had invested her future. Love, movements, and so lithe and active every turn But I am not afraid of being disappointed. the magician, however, raised his wand, and of her pliant hands, that she saved her mis- She has been with me now sufficiently long, I shed enchantment over the whole. Esther tress a world of trouble and anxiety, and think, to allow me to form a correct estimate looked only at the sunny side of the picture, made her feel as though a burden were lifted of her character. I have always found her me a very great favor. He is intimately ac-quainted with a very influential personage, and decided that the task, which she imme-quainted with a very influential personage, and decided that the task, which she imme-quainted with a very influential personage, and decided that the task, which she immediately set herself, of effecting a complete had by no means realized until it was re- my slightest wish. Besides, even should she reformation wherever it was needful, would moved. The one drawback to their mutual be guilty of any fault, no matter how serious,

CHAPTER III.

means receive into their comprehension the charge were able to arrive at a tolerable comlessons of neatness which their new mistress prehension of each other's meaning, which better understanding of the duties they were as "Chola," or what sounded something like "At any rate, I know you will do what I wish required to perform. Still, much remained to it. But to Esther it seemed such a queer apbe done, and Esther found that unless certain pellation, that she fancied it must be a nick- of our bargain. tasks were taken into her own hands, they name, and one day questioned her in regard would either be entirely neglected, or accom- to it. Leaving out all broken words, errors in "I do not see wherein the great difference cure more competent assistance for her, by some means or other, no matter what difficulties lay in his way.

"Wickedness! Now, my dear Esther, that I grow more accustomed to what I have to do." | called?" "I don't want you to grow accustomed to "Picciola, Señora; and I used to hear from

"And what would I not do, Paul, just for interest.

your sake? You don't know me, if you imagine that I mind the trifling work that devolves upon me, or that I would not gladly undertake a thousand times more, rather than | ways good. She went with him to the prison, give up the happiness of being what I am." position, Esther, according to the opinion of the ugly prison walls to cheer his heart.'

your New York friends; and especially in surroundings like these! What would Mrs. eagerly; and she related, as well as she could, Pembroke say, if she could make a visit of in- the story of "Picciola," and the poor captive the parcel, whatever it might be. spection to our little domain?" "She couldn't help saying that it's a lovely place," said Esther. "The atmosphere and tween the flag-stones of his prison-yard, the keep it, than take a dollar for it—I know

contrast to cramped streets and brick walls, tened with delight, and clapped her hands, as and the stifling city air! I always had a she exclaimedlonging to get wings and fly away. It was for fredoom and space." "There is certainly enough of both of those about it."

here to satisfy your utmost longing. But, semeet him, if you will; but please don't bring riously, dearest, I cannot help accusing my- died, Picciola?" self of selfishness in having persuaded you to "Well, dear, of course I will not, since you make the exchange? One comfort is, there I remember her well." is every reason to hope, that at no very distant day, I shall have the pleasure of laying few years, of privation and self-sacrifice."

"Let it be ever so many years, I shall not mind it, Paul, so long as we continue well, and can work and hope together. Remem-On the day following this conversation,

Raymond, who had, as usual, left the house early in the morning, rode up to the door, to poor child to such cruel guardianship. Esther's amazement, with , young girl on the "I have brought you a maid," he said live here always?"

laughing. "I can't answer for her qualifications, but she seems worth a trial. She speaks fervor. but very little English, for one thing; but you can muster up enough Spanish to make she cried, with glistening eyes. "I do-both," said Esther, in her quiet, deher understand, I dare say, and before long it constantly spoken."

"Is she Spanish, then?" asked Esther. "Her father was a Spaniard, her mother a very low sum. We are to keep her on trial, with whom she has lived for some years past, is willing to sell her to us for fifty dollars." "Sell her!" echoed Esther in horror. "Oh, since she was so anxious to remain. She rethere.

"Trust me to take care of myself, my wise and she was anxious to clinch the bargain at glean from her in relation to her past life. It surmounted by the initials "L. A." There "Re- once; but I was not willing for that, and seemed to her that Picciola must have been was, at the back, a place for a picture; but the bilities first."

find her?"

"Aunt Lizzie, you would not bid me disobey the dictates of my heart?"
"I would, if they were imprudent or wrong. The heart—and this, by the way, is a term very commonly misapplied to the imagination, or of a romantic fancy—is the imagination, or of a romantic fancy—is the imagination, or of a romantic fancy—is the display of a romantic fancy—is the display of any negative and the natural, surprised other opportunity would be afforded the latter of the latter was to make her bathe herself, him in any of its members, provided it resulting of procuring the introduction he so greatly of procuring the introduction he so greatly and then attire her in some garments selected would probably cease from her own wardrobe, which, with a little fallow who was attention of their ruling passion, have kept aloof from him; but her husband of procuring the introduction he so greatly of procuring the introdu ways, and the snares and pitfalls which are spread for the young and unwary, like your-self"

ways, and the snares and pitfalls which are spread for the young and unwary, like your-self"

ways, and the snares and pitfalls which are spread for the young and unwary, like your-self"

"Yes, always—but Paul, what makes you speak of such things now?"

"I am not so very young, aunt. You speak as though I were an unfledged girl of sixteen."

"A mere fancy, dearest," he answered, in a the advances of the singular being who testified so much anxiety to establish himself in this as in most cases, as subunded on the north by a spur of the Sierras, and remote from any settlement, except one dislike, and to reciprocate, in some degree, or two straggling Indian colonies. An old a suitable length. By dint of pinning over dislike, and to reciprocate, in some degree, or two straggling Indian colonies. An old as suitable length. By dint of pinning over dislike, and to reciprocate, in some degree, the skirt of a calico dress soon reduced it to a suitable length. By dint of pinning over dislike, and to reciprocate, in some degree, the body was made to answer and belting in, the body was made to answer and belting in, the body was made to answer almost as well; and it was amusing to see the light, and a couple of tucks hastily run in the skirt of a calico dress soon reduced it to a suitable length. By dint of pinning over town, formerly inhabited by Spaniards, but and belting in, the body was made to answer and belting in, the body was made to answer and belting in, the body was made to answer and belting in, the body was made to answer and belting in, the body was made to answer and belting in, the body was made to answer and belting in, the body was made to answer and belting in, the body was made to answer and belting in the body was an authorised."

"Well, 'cause,' said the lady; 'why can't you?'

"Well, 'cause,' said the lady; 'why can't you?'

"Well, 'cause,' said the lady; 'why can't you?'

"Well, 'cause,' said the lady; 'why his judgment, in this as in most cases, as su- bounded on the north by a spur of the Sierras, height, and a couple of tucks hastily run in to make with me from the first."

telligible language seemed to invest with ut- such readiness in following the instructions satisfaction-for the girl herself seemed de- I never could make up my mind to send her lighted with her new position-was her igno- back to that dreadful grandmother, after the rance of English; and this Esther immediate- way in which she has used her. Oh! Paul ly undertook to remedy by instituting a regu- if you could see the shocking marks of ill A week had elapsed, and the work of trans- lar course of lessons, independently of the treatment which the poor child has showed formation, which Esther had undertaken, was practical instruction she gave her at all times, me! You would feel as sorry for her, and progressing bravely, and was, so far, most sat- in pointing out to her the names and uses of anxious to protect her, as I do." eral times I have been foiled, in the simplest reform had seemed most impracticable, some- ciation of a language usually so puzzling to an entirely different cause to the one she asand yet the most provoking way, in my at- thing like improvement was already manifest. foreigners. On her part, she got Raymond to signs them to." Two of the Indian servants, wild creatures, give her instruction in Spanish, with which he "Don't tease me so, Paul. I know you who appeared to regard dirt as a necessary adjunct to their existence, and could by no dint of their mutual efforts, she and her low it."

"My father was cast in prison, Señora, for some fault-at least, the wicked people ac- grandchild?" cused him; though my mother said he was aland there I was born. And my father called "A poor man's wife! Not a very enviable me his little flower, which had sprung up in

"Ah! yes, now I understand," cried Esther, who had so tenderly cherished the frail plant, which had forced its way into the light be- companied by a cunning look. "I'd rather the scenery are enchanting-such a refreshing one companion of his solitude. The girl lis- what's inside."

"That is just it. Señora : I remember it now, just the sensation of a bird in a cage, pining well. But it is such a long, long while since my mother told me, that I had forgotten out with a very dirty little paper package,

"Ah! yes, Señora; I was very small. But

"And your father: he is also dead?" "Yes, Señora; I have been an orphan this dollars, now?" long while."

"And your relations with whom you since lived-were they kind to you?" "Sometimes, but not always. I have been many times beaten-see here," and she drew

hardness of the fate which had consigned the "Not if you wish to stay with me," answer- any light thrown upon it.

ed her mistress readily.

she will begin to learn Euglish, from hearing you will be a good girl, and try to please me, looked serious, but testified no sorrow, as inalways."

for me any more."

thought it safest to make a trial of her capa- born in a better station than present appear- space was empty, though Picciola averred ances would indicate; and the very fact of that she remembered once seeing a likeness "Poor little creature!" said Esther, com- her parents' knowledge of the historical tale there, which she thought must have been her passionately regarding the girl, whose large, from which her name had been derived, point- father's. The relic, as it stood, could give no menting my fate, even though I should marry a wild Indian, or bury myself in the depths of

and very slenderly built, she was tall for her ciola, "that I had better go at once to the old with a great deal of interest, but when asked

third year; and what knowledge have you of from your lips—to know that even if misfor- In the sultry atmosphere of the tropics, a poverty-stricken families still made their rangement, and the pride with which she rethat the charms of neatness set it off. Her life. Her eyes actually glistened at the bare

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"Did she propose the amount, or you?" "She did; but so hesitatingly at first, that it er, her strength gradually revived, and the may upon her first introduction to the ménage cast down, the long dusky lashes almost was quite evident she was not prepared for my guides me; and I think it is the safest councome upon us! Only, if it does come, I would healthful color was restored to her cheek, and over which she was in future to preside. The swept her cheek. Her hair, which was ravencompliance with her demand; and when she brilliancy to her eye; yet her former gayety house was roomy enough, and tolerably well black and very fine, hung in two thick glossy found that I did not consider it unreasonably

"What a horrible creature she must be! I

"But why should I?" "Picciola may disappoint your expectations

isfactory in its results. Order and conven- everything around them; and she was amazed "Now, Esther, how do you know but that ience began to reign where confusion had at the aptness which her scholar displayed, in she has been merely playing upon your sensihitherto prevailed. Even in the kitchen, where mastering both the meaning and the pronun- bility. Perhaps those marks have come from

"Of course I do. Am I not bound to co-

incide in your opinions?" "I wish you were," said Esther, with a recollection of Señor Alasquez in her mind. now, and I feel quite sure we shall not repent

Raymond set off on his appointed errand but arrived at the old woman's wretched hableaving them undone. This troubled Ray- with which their attempts at conversation pant had been removed by death. A neighmond, who could not bear to see her work, were of necessity still replete, a dialogue of bor of hers, a squalid-looking settler, half and he announced his determination to pro- the following nature took place between them: Spanish, half Indian, informed him that it "Chola," is yours a Spanish name? It was nearly a week since she had been carried sounds different from any I have ever heard." off by a low fever-that, and the too free use "Yes-no-I think not, Señora. I forget of alcohol, in which it seemed she had been what language it is of. But it is not my whole name."

accustomed to indulge, "She was a talkin' a heap about you," said the man, "and was "Ah! I thought not. What are you really 'mos crazy to see you. She said she had something particular to tell you about the girl.'

"And could you not have come and let me "And what was that?" asked Esther, with but I might have gone if I had been sure I

would get something for my paine."
"Did she leave any message to me, or to her "She left something-a little parcel, which I was to give you, for a consideration. "What sort of consideration?"

"Whatever you might judge reasonble, stranger. I leave it to you to make an offer.' Disgusted at the man's cupidity, Raymond answered that he would give him a dollar for "I guess not, stranger," was the reply, ac-

"Show it to me, then," said Raymond im-

patiently, "and I will give you whatever it may be worth." The man shuffled into his cabin and came

which he proceeded to unwrap, while keeping "Is it so many years since your mother at a careful distance from Raymond, who remained seated upon his horse.
"See here," he said, holding up a small locket, attached to a piece of common string, in lieu of a chain. "Ain't that worth five

"Well, take the five dollars, then, and let me have it once."

"All right, stranger; there it is-you see I ain't a man to back out from my word." Long familiarity with the habits of this

up one sleeve, disclosing a scar on her arm. class of individuals, prevented Raymond from ber, I have not come here to be a hindrance, I have more like that, on my body—but it feeling any surprise, as he might have done, "Is your grandmother your only living re- without farther comment, he received and lation?" asked Esther, inwardly pitying the placed in his pocket the old Spanish woman's bequest. It might, he thought, afford some clue to Picciola's real origin; and though he "As far as I know, Señora. Am I ever to felt no special interest himself in the matter, he thought it would gratify his wife to have

Esther felt rather relieved, than otherwise "Would you like to at the news of the demise of the "old witch," Picciola seized her hand, and kissed it with as Raymond called her, as it freed her from all apprehension concerning any interference "Ah! Senora, if you would only let me," with her young charge, whom she might now regard justly as her own property. Picciola, "Well, I will let you," replied Esther, "if when the information was imparted to her, deed it was not to expected that she would: "Oh! I will be so good. I do not wish ever for it was evident that the bond between her to go away from you, Señora. I love you so departed relative and herself had not been of Mexican. I have hired her for you for a much. You are more kind to me than any- a sort to awaken any of the finer sensibilities body I ever knew-except my own mother. of her nature, and she was so well pleased in and if she suits you, her old grandmother, And now she is dead, there is nobody to care her new home, that it was no doubt a satisfaction to her to feel assured that there would Esther determined to keep the poor girl, now be no impediment to her remaining

ally liked her, and felt a deep interest in her, The locket which Raymond brought to his "Indeed I am. It was her own proposition, from the few circumstances she was able to wife, contained merely a curl of dark hair,

"I am very willing to accept yours as my grandmother must be. Whereabouts did you coarse or common about her, either in manner owner to wear as an ornament around her or appearance. On the contrary, there was a neck, and ceased to think farther about it. "At the old Spanish settlement. They are degree of refinement which showed itself, in | Some months passed by, peacefully and frightfully poor, apparently, and she has many ways, in her behaviour, really surpris- happily. Raymond was the most devoted of come to you with nothing but the clothes on ing in one taken from such inferior surround- husbands, and Esther grew daily fonder of ings as hers had been. Raymond described her beautiful, though lonely valley-home. "And ragged enough they are," said Es- the old woman, her grandmother, as a verita- Such glowing descriptions did she write to badinage on his part, which she took very ther; "but that is a want I can scon supply." ble hag-dirty, repulsive looking, uncouth in her relative of its charms, that even Mrs. Then taking the girl's brown hand in hers, manner, and every way unprepossessing; and she said to her in a gentle voice, "Come with Esther suggested that the relationship between gloomy fears she had indulged in, and Mr. life."

Two days later, they arrived in port; and the might be only a pretended one; an idea wery grave. "My love, you are speaking "It is because this matter is so important, lightly now," he rejoined, in a serious tone; sent his advances as intrusive, or regard his to Esther's great relief, Señor Alasquez took in a serious tone; sent his advances as intrusive, or regard his to Esther's great relief, Señor Alasquez took in a serious tone; sent his advances as intrusive, or regard his to Esther's great relief, Señor Alasquez took in the supposition and the gesture which is advances as intrusive, or regard his to Esther's great relief, Señor Alasquez took in the supposition are supposition as a serious tone; sent his advances as intrusive, or regard his to Esther's great relief, Señor Alasquez took in the supposition are supposition as a serious tone; sent his advances as intrusive, or regard his to Esther's great relief, Señor Alasquez took in the supposition are supposition as a serious tone; sent his advances as intrusive, or regard his to Esther's great relief, Señor Alasquez took in the supposition are supposition as a serious tone; sent his advances as intrusive, or regard his to Esther's great relief, Señor Alasquez took in the supposition are supposition are supposition are supposition as a serious tone; sent his advances as intrusive, or regard his to Esther's great relief, Señor Alasquez took in the supposition are suppos me." The words were not understood, but them might be only a pretended one; an idea Pembroke began to think that, after all, he that I think I owe it to myself to consult my "but, tell me truly, do you trust me with all behaviour otherwise than as that of a well- his leave of them, with only an indefinite accompanied them, seemed quite intelligible; circumstance of the woman being so ready to with which he had endeavored to cheer his own judgment, and my own feelings," said your heart and soul—do you place yourself in Esther, speaking in a low tone, but with unhimself to the limits which bound a casual timacy with Gen. K-, of which he boasted white, glittering teeth, and followed Esther class to which she belonged was so degraded, and be pining to return to the enjoyment of