

(CONTINUED.)

Mrs. Morgan was sitting on the sofa in her sitting-room, doing nothing. Although the furniture was good, the place looked as though it had been always so when neglected through drink. Mrs. Morgan was astonished to see her husband return so soon, and with Faith Harley, too. She was sober as yet, so Faith was addressed as "little dear," and when the fat old lady had heard the story of her loss, she uttered any number of exclamations, and roused herself to call her maid to bring a tassel and hot water for Faith's cloak. When these were brought, she took the cloak off Faith's shoulders and began cleaning it, while Faith sat by the fire on a low chair, which Mr. Morgan had put for her. He told his wife what the child had been saying about being sure of having bread at Christmas, and of her disappointed hopes of having "real Christmas things," and then, to divert the child's attention, he said—

"Yes, sir," said Faith, resting her folded hands on her knee.

"I wonder what made your mother call you that?" he said, inquisitively.

"I know," said Faith, with a degree of hesitation. "Mother told me all about it one day and I can tell you, if you like. But you won't tell anybody."

"Of course not," said Mr. Morgan, taking his wife's place on the sofa, for in truth he felt scarcely able to stand. "But wait a minute, little one. Wife," he added, "have you a sup of brandy left in the house? I want something, and I met the child before I could turn in anywhere."

Mrs. Morgan on her way to get the brandy, paused in extreme astonishment, and stared at her husband and then Faith. The old gentleman's eyebrows were raised in equal astonishment, as he looked at Faith's flushed and earnest face.

"Because it's something about that I'm going to tell you," added the child, apologetically.

"Very well, then, let us hear it first," said Mr. Morgan, setting himself back on the sofa.

Faith went back to her seat, looking very gratified, and, folding her hands on her knee again, as she had a habit of doing, she began, in a timid voice—

"A long time ago, before I was born, when mother had two boys alive, she was almost rich. She had such a nice house, she told me, and money enough to buy anything she wanted. Father was a master then, and had a lot of men to work for him; he was a builder."

"Ah, well then, I know him," interrupted Mr. Morgan. "Bless me! do you mean to say that you are David Harley's little girl? Many's the day I have met him, and a good-hearted, sociable man he was. But I never heard what came of him at last; I quite lost sight of him. Go on, Faith."

"Did you know that he—he got tipsy?" asked Faith, with a burning face.

Mr. Morgan nodded his head.

"Yes," continued the child, "and he kept on so dreadfully that at last he was obliged to send all his men away, and go out to work under a master himself. And so mother got so poor, she had to live in a little house, and go without many things that she wanted; and besides having so much sorrow about father, she had other troubles, for both her boys died. I often thought how dreadful she must have felt then, because it is so bad to have to live with people who get tipsy, isn't it?"

Mr. Morgan coughed, and said, "Yes."

"Well, then, after a time father had a dreadful accident. When he was going up a ladder one day he slipped and fell, and had to be carried to the hospital. I think mother said that his spine was hurt—yes, that was it; and he had to lie in bed for a great many weeks, and at last he died. I often ask mother to tell me about his death, because it's so beautiful."

"Beautiful!" echoed Mr. Morgan, incredulously. "With his notions of death nothing but the horrible was connected."

"Yes," answered Faith, looking into the fire. "You know, he was so changed while he was in bed, and he loved God, and he was so sorry to think he had been such a wicked man for such a long time. Mother used to go to his bed at night, and sit at the hospital for hours, and she told me how kindly he used to hold her hand and try to comfort her, and beg her to forgive him for causing her so much sorrow through drinking; and he said that if God made him well again he would never touch the drink any more; and if he had got well I don't think he would, do you, sir?"

Mr. Morgan squeezed his eyes together, and used his handkerchief vigorously before he replied, "I should think not, dear."

"The last time mother went to see him," continued Faith, "was when I was not quite a month old, and she took me along with her. That day father did not care to talk about anything else but Jesus, and angels, and heaven. Mother says that his face seemed to shine, he was so happy, because he said that his Saviour had forgiven him all his sins. Well, when mother had to wish him good-bye, he told her so gently that she would soon be a widow, and told her to have faith in God, who cares very much for widows and for little children without fathers; and then, when mother stooped for him to kiss me, he said, 'Call her Faith,' for I wasn't christened then. That's how it was I was named Faith!"

To be continued.

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