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THE
CHRISTIAN SLAVE.

A Drama,

FOUNDED ON A PORTION OF

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.

DRAMATIZED BY

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE,

EXPRESSLY FOR THE READINGS OF

MRS. MARY E. WEBB.

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BOSTON:
PHILLIPS, SAMPSON & COMPANY,
NO. 13 WINTER STREET.
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Dramatis Personæ.

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PETE,
SAM,
ANDY,
ELIZA,
AUNT CHLOE,

Slave: Mr.
Sl.

SAMBO,
QUIMBO,
CASSY,
EMMELINE,
LUCY,
JAKE,
JANE,
ROSA,
TOSSY,
AMANDA
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BEWARE!

THE
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A Drama,

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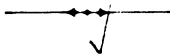
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.

DRAMATIZED BY

Elizabeth
Mrs. HARRIET (BEECHER) STOWE,

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THE CHRISTIAN SLAVE.

Air:

"Ole Kintuck in de arternoon."

ACT I.

SCENE I.—UNCLE TOM'S Cabin.

A Table with cups, saucers, &c.; AUNT CHLOE cooking at the fire; UNCLE TOM and GEO. SHELBY at a table, with slate between them; MOSE and PETE playing with baby in the corner.

Geo. Shelby. Ha! ha! ha! Uncle Tom! Why, how funny!—brought up the tail of your *g* wrong side out—makes a *q*, don't you see?

Uncle Tom. La sakes! now, does it?

Geo. S. Why yes. Look here now [*writing rapidly*], that's *g*, and that's *q*—that's *g*—that's *q*. See now?

Aunt Chloe. How easy white folks al'ays does things! The way he can write now! and read, too! and then to come out here evenings and read his lessons to us—it's mighty interestin'!

Geo. Sh. But, Aunt Chloe, I'm getting mighty hungry. Is n't that cake in the skillet almost done?

Aunt C. Mose done, Mas'r George; brownin' beautiful—a real lovely brown. Ah, let me alone for dat! Missis let Sally try to make some cake t' other day, jes to *larr* her, she said. "O, go way, Missis," says I; "it really hurts my feelin's, now, to see good vittles spiled dat ar way! Cake riz all to one side—no shape at all, no more than my shoe—go way!" Here you, Mose and Pete, get out de way, you niggers! Get away, Polly, honey; mammy 'll give her baby somefin by-and-by. Now, Mas'r George, you jest take off dem books, and set down now with my old man, and I'll take up de sausages, and have de first griddle-full of cakes on your plates in less dan no time.

Geo. S. They wanted me to come to supper in the house, but I knew what was what too well for that, Aunt Chloe.

Aunt C. So you did—so you did, honey; you know'd your old aunty'd keep the best for you. O, let you alone for dat—go way!

Geo. S. Now for the cake.

Aunt C. La bless you ! Mas'r George, you would n't be for cuttin' it wid dat ar great heavy knife ? Smash all down — spile all de pretty rise of it. Here, I've got a thin old knife I keeps sharp a purpose. Dar now, see — comes apart light as a feather. Now eat away ; you won't get anything to beat dat ar.

Geo. S. Tom Lincoln says that their Jinny is a better cook than you.

Aunt C. Dem Lincolns an't much 'count no way ; I mean, set alongside our folks. They's 'spectable folks enough in a plain way ; but as to gettin' up anything in style, they don't begin to have a notion on't. Set Mas'r Lincoln, now, alongside Mas'r Shelby. Good Lor ! and Missis Lincoln — can she kinder sweep it into a room like my missis — so kinder splendid, yer know ? O, go way ! don't tell me nothin' of dem Lincolns.

Geo. S. Well, though, I've heard you say that Jinny was a pretty fair cook.

Aunt C. So I did. I may say dat. Good, plain, common cookin', Jinny'll do ; make a good pone o' bread — bile her taters *far* — her corn-cakes is n't extra — not extra, now, Jinny's corn-cakes is n't ; but then they's *far*. But, Lor, come to de higher branches, and what can she do ? Why, she makes pies — sartin she does ; but what kinder crust ? Can she make your real flecky paste, as melts in your mouth and lies all up like a puff ? Now, I went over thar when Miss Mary was gwine to be married, and Jinny she jest showed me de weddin' pies. Jinny and I is good friends, ye know. I never said nothin' ; but go long, Mas'r George ! Why, I should n't sleep a wink for a week if I had a batch of pies like dem ar. Why, dey wan't no 'count't all.

Geo. S. I suppose Jinny thought they were ever so nice.

Aunt C. Thought so ! — did n't she ! Thar she was, showing 'em as innocent ! Ye see, it's jest here, Jinny *don't know*. Lor, the family an't nothing ! She can't be 'spectet to know. 'Tan't no fault o' hern. Ah, Mas'r George, you does n't know half yer privileges in yer family and bringin' up. [*Sighs and rolls her eyes.*]

Geo. S. I'm sure, Aunt Chloe, I understand all my pie-and-pudding privileges. Ask Tom Lincoln if I don't crow over him every time I meet him.

Aunt C. [*Sitting back in her chair.*] Ya ! ha ! ha ! And so yo telled Tom, did ye ? Ha ! ha ! ha ! O Lor — what young mas'r will be up to ! Ha ! ha ! ha ! Ye crowed over Tom ! Ho ! ho ! ho ! Lor, Mas'r George, if ye would n't make a hornbug laugh.

Geo. S. Yes, I says to him, "Tom, you ought to see some of Aunt Chloe's pies ; they're the right sort," says I.

Aunt C. Pity, now, Tom could n't. Ye oughter jest ax him here to dinner some o' these times, Mas'r George ; it would look quite pretty of ye. Ye know, Mas'r George, ye oughtenter fur to feel 'bove nobody on 'count yer privileges, 'cause all our privileges is gi'n to us ; we ought al'ays to 'member dat ar.

Geo. S. Well, I mean to ask Tom here some day next week ; and you do your prettiest, Aunt Chloe, and we'll make him stare. Won't we make him eat so he won't get over it for a fortnight ?

Aunt C. Yes, yes — sartin ; you'll see. Lor ! to think of some of our dinners ! Yer mind dat ar great chicken-pie I made when we guv

de dinner to General Knox? I and Missis, we come pretty near quarrellin' about dat ar crust. What does get into ladies sometimes I don't know; but sometimes, when a body has de heaviest kind o' 'sponsibility on 'em, as ye may say, and is all kinder "seris" and taken up, dey takes dat ar time to be hangin' round and kinder interferin'! Now, missis, she wanted me to do dis way, and she wanted me to do dat way; and finally I got kinder sarey, and says I, "Now, missis, do jist look at dem beautiful white hands o' yourn, with long fingers, and all a sparklin' with rings, like my white lilies when de dew 's on 'em; and look at my great black stumpin' hands. Now, don't ye think dat de Lor must have meant *me* to make de pie-crust, and you to stay in de parlor?" Dar, I was jist so sarey, Mas'r George.

Geo. S. And what did mother say?

Aunt C. Say! — why, she kinder larfed in her eyes — dem great handsome eyes o' hern; and says she, "Well, Aunt Chloe, I think you are about in the right on 't," says she; and she went off in de parlor. She oughter cracked me over de head for bein' so sarey; but dar 's whar 't is — I can't do nothin' with ladies in de kitchen.

Geo. S. Well, you made out well with that dinner — I remember everybody said so.

Aunt C. Did'n't I? And wan't I behind de dinin'-room door dat bery day? and didn't I see de General pass his plate three times for some more dat bery pie? and, says he, "You must have an uncommon cook, Mrs. Shelby." Lor! I was jist fit fur ter split.

And de General, he knows what cookin' is. Bery nice man, de General. He comes of one of de bery *fastest* families in Ole Virginny. He knows what 's what, now, as well as I do — de General. Ye see, there 's *pints* in all pics, Mas'r George; but 't an't everybody knows what 's his, or fur to be. But the General, he knows; I knew by his 'marks he made. Yes, he knows what de pints is.

Geo. S. [*Throwing pieces of cake to the children.*] Here you Mose, Pete — you want some, don't you? Come, Aunt Chloe, bake them some cakes.

Aunt C. [*Feeding baby, while Mose and Pete roll on the floor and pull baby's toes.*] O, go long, will ye? [*Kicking them.*] Can't ye be decent when white folks come to see ye? Stop dat ar, now, will ye? Better mind yerselves, or I 'll take ye down a button-hole lower, when Mas'r George is gone.

Uncle Tom. La, now! they are so full of tickle all the while, they can't behave theirselves.

Aunt C. Get along wid ye! ye 'll all stiek together. Go long to de spring and wash yerselves. Mas'r George! did ye ever see such aggravatin' young uns? Wall, now, I hopes you 's done. Here, now, you Mose and Pete — ye got to go to bed, mighty sudden, I tell ye. Cause we 's gwine to have meetin' here.

Mose and Pete. O, mother, we don't wanter. We wants to sit up to meetin' — meetin's is so curis. We likes 'em.

Geo. S. [*Pushing the trundle-bed.*] La! Aunt Chloe, let 'em sit up.

Aunt C. Well, mebbe 't will do 'em some good. What we 's to do for cheers, now, I declare I don't know.

Mose. Old Uncle Peter sung both de legs out of dat oldest cheer, last week.

Aunt C. You go long! I'll boun' you pulled 'em out; some o' your shines.

Mose. Well, it'll stand, if it only keeps jam up agin de wall!

Pete. Den Uncle Peter mus' n't sit in it, 'cause he al'ays hitches when he gets a singing. He hitched pretty nigh cross de room t' udder night.

Mose. Good Lor! get him in it den; and then he'd begin, "Come, saints and sinners, hear me tell," and then down he'd go.

[*Mimicking.*]

Aunt C. Come, now, be decent, can't ye? An't yer 'shamed yerself? Well, ole man, you'll have to tote in them ar bar'ls yerself.

Mose. [*Aside to Pete.*] Mother's bar'ls is like dat ar widder's Mas'r George was reading 'bout in de good book — dey never fails.

Pete. [*Aside to Mose.*] I'm sure one on 'em caved in last week, and let 'em all down in de middle of de singin'; dat ar was failin', warn't it?

Aunt C. Mas'r George is such a beautiful reader, now, I know he'll stay to read for us; 'pears like 't will be so much more interestin'.

SCENE II. — *A Boudoir. Evening. MR. and MRS. SHELBY.*

Mrs. Shelby. [*Arranging her ringlets at the mirror.*] By the by, Arthur, who was that low-bred fellow that you lugged in to our dinner-table to-day?

Mr. Shelby. [*Lounging on an ottoman, with newspaper.*] Haley is his name.

Mrs. S. Haley! Who is he, and what may be his business here, pray?

Mr. S. Well, he's a man that I transacted some business with last time I was at Natchez.

Mrs. S. And he presumed on it to make himself quite at home, and call and dine here, eh?

Mr. S. Why, I invited him; I had some accounts with him.

Mrs. S. Is he a negro-trader?

Mr. S. Why, my dear, what put that into your head?

Mrs. S. Nothing — only Eliza came in here, after dinner, in a great worry, crying and taking on, and said you were talking with a trader, and that she heard him make an offer for her boy — the ridiculous little goose!

Mr. S. She did, eh? It will have to come out. As well now as ever. [*Aside.*]

Mrs. S. I told Eliza that she was a little fool for her pains, and that you never had anything to do with that sort of persons. Of course, I knew you never meant to sell any of our people — least of all, to such a fellow.

Mr. S. Well, Emily, so I have always felt and said; but the fact is, my business lies so that I cannot get on without. I shall have to sell some of my hands.

Mrs. S. To that creature? Impossible! Mr. Shelby, you cannot be serious.

Mr. S. I am sorry to say that I am. I've agreed to sell Tom.

Mrs. S. What! our Tom? that good, faithful creature! been your faithful servant from a boy! O, Mr. Shelby! and you have promised him his freedom, too—you and I have spoken to him a hundred times of it. Well, I can believe anything now; I can believe now that you could sell little Harry, poor Eliza's only child!

Mr. S. Well, since you must know all, it is so. I have agreed to sell Tom and Harry both; and I don't know why I am to be rated as if I were a monster for doing what every one does every day.

Mrs. S. But why, of all others, choose these? Why sell them off all on the place, if you must sell at all?

Mr. S. Because they will bring the highest sum of any—that's why. I could choose another, if you say so. The fellow made me a high bid on Eliza, if that would suit you any better.

Mrs. S. The wretch!

Mr. S. Well, I did n't listen to it a moment—out of regard to your feelings, I would n't; so give me some credit.

Mrs. S. My dear, forgive me. I have been hasty. I was surprised, and entirely unprepared for this; but surely you will allow me to intercede for these poor creatures. Tom is a noble-hearted, faithful fellow, if he is black. I do believe, Mr. Shelby, that, if he were put to it, he would lay down his life for you.

Mr. S. I know it—I dare say; but what's the use of all this? I can't help myself.

Mrs. S. Why not make a pecuniary sacrifice? I'm willing to bear my part of the inconvenience. O, Mr. Shelby, I have tried—tried most faithfully, as a Christian woman should—to do my duty to these poor, simple, dependent creatures. I have cared for them, instructed them, watched over them, and known all their little cares and joys, for years; and how can I ever hold up my head again among them, if, for the sake of a little paltry gain, we sell such a faithful, excellent, confiding creature as poor Tom? I have taught them the duties of the family, of parent and child, and husband and wife; and how can I bear to have this open acknowledgment that we care for no tie, no duty, no relation? I have talked with Eliza about her boy—her duty to him as a Christian mother, to watch over him, pray for him, and bring him up in a Christian way; I have told her that one soul is worth more than all the money in the world; and how will she believe me when she sees us turn round and sell her child? sell him, perhaps, to certain ruin of body and soul!

Mr. S. I'm sorry you feel so about it, Emily—in indeed, I am; and I respect your feelings, too, though I don't pretend to share them to their full extent; but I tell you now, solemnly, it's of no use—I can't help myself. I did n't mean to tell you this, Emily; but, in plain words, there is no choice between selling these two and selling everything. Either they must go, or all must. Haley has come into possession of a mortgage, which, if I don't clear off with him directly, will take everything before it. I've raked, and scraped, and borrowed, and all but begged, and the price of these two was needed to make up the balance, and I had to give them up. Haley fancied the child; he

agreed to settle the matter that way, and no other. I was in his power, had to do it. If you feel so to have them sold, would it be any better to have them *all* sold?

Mrs. S. [Groaning.] This is God's curse on slavery! — a bitter, bitter, most accursed thing! — a curse to the master, a curse to the slave! I was a fool to think I could make anything good out of such a deadly evil. It is a sin to hold a slave under laws like ours. I always felt it was — I always thought so when I was a girl — I thought so still more after I joined the church; but I thought I could gild it over. I thought, by kindness, and care, and instruction, I could make the condition of mine better than freedom. Fool that I was!

Mr. S. Why, wife, you are getting to be an Abolitionist, quite.

Mrs. S. Abolitionist! If they knew all I know about slavery they *might* talk! We don't need them to tell us. You know I never thought that slavery was right — never felt willing to own slaves.

Mr. S. Well, therein you differ from many wise and pious men. You remember Mr. B.'s sermon the other Sunday?

Mrs. S. I don't want to hear such sermons. I never wish to hear Mr. B. in our church again. Ministers can't help the evil, perhaps, — can't cure it, any more than we can, — but defend it! It always went against my common sense. And I think you did n't think much of the sermon, either.

Mr. S. Well, I must say these ministers sometimes carry matters further than we poor sinners would exactly dare to do. We men of the world must wink pretty hard at various things, and get used to a deal that is n't the exact thing. But we don't quite fancy when women and ministers come out broad and square, and go beyond us in matters of either modesty or morals, that's a fact. But now, my dear, I trust you see the necessity of the thing, and you see that I have done the very best that circumstances would allow.

Mrs. S. [Agitatedly.] O, yes, yes! I haven't jewelry of any amount; but would not this watch do something? It was an expensive one when it was bought. If I could only at least save Eliza's child, I would sacrifice anything I have.

Mr. S. I'm sorry, very sorry, Emily — I'm sorry this takes hold of you so; but it will do no good. The fact is, Emily, the thing's done; the bills of sale are already signed, and in Haley's hands; and you must be thankful it is no worse. That man has had it in his power to ruin us all, and now he is fairly off. If you knew the man as I do you'd think that we had had a narrow escape.

Mrs. S. Is he so hard, then?

Mr. S. Why, not a cruel man, exactly, but a man of leather, a man alive to nothing but trade and profit; cool and unhesitating, and unrelenting as death and the grave. He'd sell his own mother at a good percentage, not wishing the old woman any harm either.

Mrs. S. And this wretch owns that good, faithful Tom and Eliza's child?

Mr. S. Well, my dear, the fact is, that this goes rather hard with me; it's a thing I hate to think of. Haley wants to drive matters, and take possession to-morrow. I'm going to get out my horse bright and early, and be off. I can't see Tom, that's a fact; and you had

SCENE VII. — *The Road.*

Enter HALEY, SAM *and* ANDY, *mounted.*

Haley. Your master, I s'pose, don't keep no dogs?

Sam. Heaps on 'em; thar 's Bruno — he 's a roarer! and, besides that, 'bout every nigger of us keeps a pup of some natur' or uther.

Haley. Ho! But your master don't keep no dogs — I pretty much know he don't — for trackin' out niggers?

Sam. Our dogs all smells round considerable sharp. I 'spect they 's the kind, though they ha' n't never had no practice. They 's *far* dogs, though, at most anything, if you 'd get 'em started. Here, Bruno!

[*Whistling.*]

Haley. Bruno be — !

Sam. Lor, Mas'r Haley, don't see no use cursin on 'em, nuther!

Haley. [*Smothering his anger.*] Take the straight road to the river. I know the way of all of 'em — they make tracks for the underground.

Sam. Sartin, dat 's de idee. Mas'r Haley hits de thing right in de middle. Now, der's two roads to de river — de dirt road and der pike — which mas'r mean to take?

Andy. Dat am fact.

Sam. 'Cause, I'd rather be 'clined to 'magine that Lizy 'd take de dirt road, bein' it 's the least travelled.

Andy. I tink so too.

Haley. [*Contemplatively.*] If yer war n't both on yer such cussed liars, now!

Sam. Course, mas'r can do as he 'd ruther; go de straight road, if mas'r think best — it 's all one to us. Now, when I study 'pon it, I tink de straight road de best, *decidedly.*

Haley. She would naturally go a lonesome way.

Sam. Dar an't no sayin'; gals is peculiar. They never does nothin' ye thinks they will; mose gen'ly the contrar. Gals is nat'ly made contrary; and so, if you thinks they 've gone one road, it is sartin you 'd better go t'other, and then you 'll be sure to find 'em. Now, my private 'pinion is, Lizy took der dirt road; so I think we 'd better take de straight one.

Haley. On the whole, I shall take the dirt road. How far is it?

Sam. A little piece ahead [*winking to Andy*]; but I've studied on de matter, and I 'm quite clar we ought not to go dat ar way. I nebber been over it no way. It 's despit lonesome, and we might lose our way — whar we 'd come to, de Lord only knows.

Haley. Nevertheless, I shall go that way.

Sam. Now I think on't, I think I hearn 'em tell dat ar road was all fenced up and down by der creek, and thar; an't it, Andy?

Andy. Dunno 'zackly. So I hearn tell.

Sam. Its despit rough and bad for Jerry's lame foot, mas'r.

Haley. Now, I jest give yer warning, I know yer; yer won't get me to turn off this yer road, with all yer fussin' — so you shet up!

Sam. Mas'r will go his own way! [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VIII. — *The Parlor.*

Enter SAM and ANDY below, horseback. MRS. SHELBY from the window.

Mrs. Shelby. Is that you, Sam? Where are they?

Sam. Mas'r Haley's a-restin' at the tavern; he's drefful fatigued, missis.

Mrs. S. And Eliza, Sam?

Sam. Wal, she's clar 'cross Jordan. As a body may say, in the land o' Canaan.

Mrs. S. Why Sam, what do you mean?

Sam. Wal, missis, de Lord he presarves his own. Lizy's done gone over the river into 'Hio, as 'markably as if the Lord took her over in a charrit of fire and two hosses.

Enter MR. SHELBY.

Mr. S. Come up here, Sam, and tell your mistress what she wants. Come, come, Emily, you are cold and all in a shiver; you allow yourself to feel too much.

Mrs. S. Feel too much! Am I not a woman — a mother? Are we not both responsible to God for this poor girl? My God, lay not this sin to our charge!

Mr. S. What sin, Emily? You see yourself that we have only done what we were obliged to.

Mrs. S. There's an awful feeling of guilt about it, though. I can't reason it away.

Enter SAM from below.

Mr. S. Now, Sam, tell us distinctly how the matter was. Where is Eliza, if you know?

Sam. Wal, mas'r, I saw her with my own eyes a crossin' on the floatin' ice. She crossed most 'markably; it was n't no less nor a miracle; and I saw a man help her up the 'Hio side, and then she was lost in the dusk.

Mr. S. Sam, I think this rather apocryphal — this miracle. Crossing on floating ice is n't so easily done.

Sam. Easy! could n't nobody a done it without de Lord. Why, now, 't was jist dis yer way. Mas'r Haley, and me, and Andy, we comes up to de little tavern by the river, and I rides a leetle ahead — (I's so zealous to be catchin' Lizy, that I could n't hold in, noway) — and when I comes by the tavern winder, sure enough there she was, right in plain sight, and dey diggin' on behind. Wal, I loses off my hat, and sings out 'nuff to raise the dead. Course Lizy she hars, and she dodges back, when Mas'r Haley he goes past the door; and then, I tell ye, she clared out de side door; she went down de river bank; Mas'r Haley he seed her, and yelled out, and him, and me, and Andy, we took arter. Down she came to the river, and thar was the current running ten feet wide by the shore, and over t' other side ice a sawin'

and jiggling up and down, kinder as 't were a great island. We come right behind her, and I thought my soul he 'd got her sure enough — when she gin sich a screech as I never hearn, and thar she was, clar over t' other side the current, on the ice, and then on she went, a screechin' and a jumpin' — the ice went crack ! c'wallop ! chunk ! and she a boundin' like a buck ! Lord, the spring that ar gal's got in her an't common, I 'm o' 'pinion.

Mrs. S. God be praised, she is n't dead ! But where is the poor child now ?

Sam. De Lord will provide. As I 've been a sayin', dis yer 's a providence and no mistake, as missis has allers been a instructin' on us. Thar 's allers instruments ris up to do de Lord's will. Now, if 't had n't been for me to-day, she 'd been took a dozen times. Warn't it I started off de hosses dis yer mornin', and kept 'em chasin' till nigh dinner-time ? And did n't I car Mas'r Haley nigh five miles out of de road, dis evening ? or else he 'd a come up with Lizy as easy as a dog arter a 'coon. These yer 's all providences.

Mr. S. They are a kind of providences that you 'll have to be pretty sparing of, Master Sam. I allow no such practices with gentlemen on my place.

Sam. Mas'r 's quite right — quite ; it was ugly on me, there 's no disputin' that ar ; and of course mas'r and missis would n't encourage no such works. I 'm sensible of dat ar ; but a poor nigger like me 's 'mazin' tempted to act ugly sometimes, when fellers will cut up such shines as dat ar Mas'r Haley ; he an't no gen'l'man noway ; anybody's been raised as I 've been can't help a seein' dat ar.

Mrs. S. Well, Sam, as you appear to have a proper sense of your errors, you may go now and tell Aunt Chloe she may get you some of that cold ham that was left of dinner to-day. You and Andy must be hungry.

Sam. Missis is a heap too good for us.

SCENE IX. — *The Kitchen.* SAM and ANDY at Table. AUNT CHLOE and all the negroes surrounding in admiration.

Sam. [*Flourishing a greasy bone.*] Yer see, fellow-countrymen, yer see, now, what dis yer chile 's up ter, for 'fendin' yer all — yes, all on yer. For him as tries to get one o' our people, is as good as tryin' to get all ; yer see the principle 's de same — dat ar 's clar. And any one o' these yer drivers that comes smelling round arter any our people, why, he 's got *me* in his way ; I 'm the feller he 's got to set in with — I 'm the feller for ye all to come to, bredren — I 'll stand up for yer rights — I 'll 'fend 'em to the last breath !

Andy. Why, but Sam, yer telled me, only this mornin' that you 'd help this yer mas'r fur to catch Lizy ; seems to me yer talk don't hang together, mun.

Sam. I tell you now, Andy, don't yer be a-talkin' 'bout what yer don't know nothin' on ; boys like you, Andy, means well, but they can't be 'spected to collusitate the great principles of action. Dat ar was *conscience*, Andy ; when I thought of gwine arter Lizy, I raily 'spected mas'r was sot dat way. When I found missis was sot the contrar, dat ar was *conscience more yet* — 'cause fellers allers gets

more by stickin' to missis' side — so you see I's persistent either way, and sticks up to conscience, and holds on to principles. Yes, *principles*; what's principles good for, if we is n't persistent, I want'er know? Thar, Andy, you may have dat ar bone — 'tan't picked quite clean. Dis yer matter 'bout persistence, feller-niggers, dis yer 'sistenceency 's a thing what an't seed into very clar, by most anybody. Now, yer see, when a feller stands up for a thing one day, and right de contrar de next, folks ses (and nat'rally enough they ses), why, he an't persistent — hand me dat ar bit o' corn-cake, Andy. But let's look inter it. I hope the gen'lemen and der fair sex will 'scuse my usin' an or'nary sort o' 'parison. Here! I'm a tryin' to get top o' der hay. Wal, I puts up my larder dis yer side; 'tan't no go; den 'cause I don't try dere no more, but puts my larder right de contrar side, an't I persistent? I'm persistent in wanting to get up which ar side my larder is; don't yer see, all on yer?

Aunt C. It's the only thing ye ever was persistent in, Lord knows. [*Aside.*]

Sam. Yes, indeed! Yes, my feller-citizens and ladies of de other sex in general, I has principles, I has — I'm proud fur to 'oon 'em — they 's perquisite to dese yer times, and to *all* times. I has principles, and I sticks to them like forty — jest anything that I thinks is principle, I goes in to 't; I would n't mind if dey burn me 'live, I'd walk right up to de stake, I would, and say, Here I comes to shed my last blood fur my principles, fur my country, fur gen'l interests of s'ciety.

Aunt C. Well, one o' yer principles will have to be to get to bed some time to-night, and not to be a keepin' everybody up till mornin'; now every one of you young uns that don't want to be cracked had better be scarce, mighty sudden.

Sam. Niggers! all on yer, I give yer my blessin': go to bed now, and be good boys.

SCENE X. — UNCLE TOM'S Cabin.

UNCLE TOM with Testament open. CHILDREN asleep in trundle-bed.

Uncle Tom. It's the last time!

Aunt Chloe. [*Weeping.*] S'pose we must be resigned; but, O Lord! how ken I? If I know'd anything whar you 's goin', or how they 'd sarve you! Missis says she'll try and 'decem ye in a year or two; but, Lor! nobody never comes up that goes down thar! They kills em! I've hearn 'em tell how dey works 'em up on dem ar plantations.

Uncle T. There'll be the same God there, Chloe, that there is here.

Aunt C. Well, s'pose dere will; but de Lord lets drefful things happen, sometimes. I don't seem to get no comfort dat way.

Uncle T. I'm in the Lord's hands; nothin' can go no furdur than he lets it; and thar 's *one* thing I can thank him for. It 's *me* that 's sold and going down, and not you nur the chil'en. Here you 're safe; what comes will come only on me; and the Lord, he'll help me — I know he will. [*A sob.*] Let's think on our marcies!

Aunt C. Marcies! don't see no marcy in't! tan't right! tan't

right it should be so! Mas'r never ought ter left it so that ye *could* be took for his debts. Ye 've arn't him all he gets for ye, twice over. He owed ye yer freedom, and ought to gin 't to yer years ago. Mebbe he can't help himself now, but I feel it 's wrong. Nothing can't beat that ar out o' me. Sich a faithful crittur as ye 've been, and allers sot his business 'fore yer own every way, and reckoned on him more than yer own wife and chil'en! Them as sells heart's love and heart's blood, to get out of thar scrapes, the Lord 'll be up to 'em! Now mind, I tell ye de Lord 'll be up to 'em.

Uncle T. Chloe! now, if ye love me, ye won't talk so, when mebbe jest the last time we 'll ever have together! And I 'll tell ye, Chloe, it goes agin me to hear one word agin mas'r. Wan't he put in my arms a baby? It 's natur' I should think a heap o' him. And he could n't be 'spected to think so much of poor Tom. Mas'r is used to havin' all these yer things done for 'em, and nat'lly they don't think so much on 't. They can't be 'spected to, no way. Set him 'longside of other mas'rs — who 's had the treatment and the livin' I have had? And he never would have let this yer come on me if he could have seed it aforehand. I know he would n't.

Aunt C. Wal, any way, thar 's wrong about it *somewhar*. I can't jest make out whar 't is, but thar 's wrong *somewhar*, I 'm *clar* o' that.

Uncle T. Yer ought fur ter look up to the Lord above; he 's above all — thar don't a sparrow fall without him.

Aunt C. It don't seem to comfort me, but I 'spect it ort fur ter. But dar 's no use talkin'; I 'll jest get up de corn-cake, and get ye one good breakfast, 'cause nobody knows when you 'll get another.

[AUNT CHLOE gets the breakfast, and the children dress themselves.]

Mose. Lor, Pete, ha'n't we got a buster of a breakfast!

Aunt C. [Boxing his ears.] Thar now! crowing over the last breakfast yer poor daddy 's gwine to have to home!

Uncle T. O, Chloe!

Aunt C. Wal, I can't help it! I 's so tossed about, it makes me act ugly. Thar! now I 's done, I hope — now do eat something. This yer 's my nicest chicken. Thar, boys, ye shall have some, poor critturs! Yer mammy 's been cross to yer. [The boys eat.] Now, I must put up yer clothes. Jest like as not he 'll take 'em all away. I know thar ways — mean as dirt, they is! Wal, now, yer flannels for rheumatis is in this corner; so be careful, 'cause ther won't nobody make ye no more. Then here 's yer old shirts, and these yer is new ones. I toed off these yer stockings last night, and put de ball in 'em to mend with. But, Lor! who 'll ever mend for ye? [Sobbing.] To think on 't! no critter to do for ye, sick or well! I don't raily think I ought ter be good now! [Baby crows.] Ay, crow away, poor crittur! ye 'll have to come to it, too! Ye 'll live to see yer husband sold, or mebbe be sold yerself; and these yer boys, they 's to be sold, I s'pose, too, jest like as not, when dey gets good for somethin'; an't no use in niggers havin' nothin'!

Pete. Thar 's missis a-comin' in!

Aunt C. She can't do no good; what 's she coming for?

Enter Mrs. SHELBY.

Mrs. S. Tom, I come to —

[*Bursts into tears, and sits down in chair sobbing.*]

Aunt C. Lor, now, missis, don't — don't! [*All weep.*]

Mrs. S. to Uncle T. My good fellow, I can't give you anything to do you any good. If I give you money, it will only be taken from you. But I tell you solemnly, and before God, that I will keep trace of you, and bring you back as soon as I can command the money; and, till then, trust in God!

Mose and Pete. Mas'r Haley's coming!

Enter HALEY, kicking the door open.

Haley. Come, ye nigger, yer ready? Servant, ma'm.

[*To Mrs. SHELBY.*]

[*UNCLE T. and AUNT C. go out, followed by the rest. A crowd of negroes around.*]

First Slave [weeping], to Aunt C. Why, Chloe, you bar it better'n we do!

Aunt C. I'se done my tears! I does n't feel to cry 'fore dat ar old limb, nohow!

Haley. Get in!

[*Tom gets in, and HALEY fastens on shackles. Groans.*]

Mrs. S. Mr. Haley, I assure you that precaution is entirely unnecessary.

Haley. Don't know, ma'm; I've lost one five hundred dollars from this ere place, and I can't afford to run no more risks.

Aunt C. What else could she 'spect on him?

Uncle T. I'm sorry that Mas'r George happened to be away.

Enter GEORGE, springing into wagon and clasping UNCLE T. round the neck.

George. I declare, it's real mean! I don't care what they say, any of 'em! It's a nasty, mean shame! If I was a man they should n't do it — they should not, so!

Uncle T. O, Mas'r George! this does me good! I could n't bar to go off without seein' ye! It does me real good, ye can't tell!

[*GEORGE spies the fetters.*]

George. What a shame! I'll knock that old fellow down — I will!

Uncle T. No, you won't, Mas'r George; and you must not talk so loud. It won't help me any to anger him.

George. Well, I won't, then, for your sake; but only to think of it — is n't it a shame? They never sent for me, nor sent me any word, and if it had n't been for Tom Lincoln, I should n't have heard it. I tell you, I blew 'em up well, all of 'em, at home!

Uncle T. That ar was n't right, I'm feared, Mas'r George.

George. Can't help it! I say it's a shame! Look here, Uncle Tom, I've brought you my dollar!

Uncle T. O! I could n't think o' takin' on 't, Mas'r George, no ways in the world!

George. But you *shall* take it! Look here; I told Aunt Chloe I'd do it, and she advised me just to make a hole in it, and put a string through, so you could hang it round your neck, and keep it out of sight; else this mean scamp would take it away. I tell ye, Tom, I want to blow him up! it would do me good!

Uncle T. No, don't, Mas'r George, for it won't do *me* any good.

George. Well, I won't, for your sake; but there, now button your coat tight over it, and keep it, and remember, every time you see it, that I'll come down after you, and bring you back. Aunt Chloe and I have been talking about it. I told her not to fear, I'll see to it, and I'll tease father's life out, if he don't do it.

Uncle T. O, Mas'r George, ye must n't talk so 'bout yer father!

George. Lor, Uncle Tom, I don't mean anything bad.

Uncle T. No, now, Mas'r George, ye must be a good boy; 'member how many hearts is sot on ye. Al'ays keep close to yer mother. Don't be gettin' into any of them foolish ways boys has, of getting too big to mind their mothers. Tell yer what, Mas'r George, the Lord gives good many things twice over, but he don't give ye a mother but once. Ye 'll never see sich another woman, Mas'r George, if ye live to be a hundred years old. So, now, you hold on to her, and grow up, and be a comfort to her, thar's my own good boy — you will now, won't ye?

George. Yes, I will, Uncle Tom!

Uncle T. And be careful of yer speaking, Mas'r George. Young boys, when they comes to your age, is wilful, sometimes — it's natur' they should be. But real gentlemen, such as I hopes you 'll be, never lets fall no words that is n't 'spectful to thar parents. Ye an't 'fended, Mas'r George!

George. No, indeed, Uncle Tom; you always did give me good advice.

Uncle T. I's older, ye knows, and I sees all that's bound up in you. O, Mas'r George, you has everything — larnin', privileges, readin', writin' — and you 'll grow up to be a great, learned, good man, and all the people on the place, and your mother and father 'll be so proud on ye! Be a good mas'r, like yer father; and be a Christian, like yer mother. 'Member yer Creator in the days o' yer youth, Mas'r George.

George. I'll be *real* good, Uncle Tom, I tell you. I'm going to be a *first-rater*; and don't you be discouraged. I'll have you back to the place yet. As I told Aunt Chloe this morning, I'll build your house all over, and you shall have a room for a parlor, with a carpet on it, when I'm a man. O, you 'll have good times yet!

[UNCLE T. *is handcuffed and driven off.*]

ACT II.

SCENE I — *New Orleans.*

A Parlor in ST. CLARE'S house. MARIE reclining on a lounge.

Enter EVA, flying to embrace her mother.

Eva. Mammy!

Marie. That'll do! [*Languidly kissing her.*] Take care, child—don't you make my headache!

Enter ST. CLARE; he embraces MARIE and presents MISS OPHELIA.

St. Clare. Marie! this is our cousin Ophelia.

Mar. I am happy to see you, cousin.

Enter SERVANTS, crowding—foremost the old nurse. EVA flies to her and hugs and kisses her.

Eva. O, Mammy! dear Mammy!

Miss Oph. Well, you Southern children can do something that I could n't.

St. C. What, now, pray?

Oph. Well, I want to be kind to everybody, and I would n't have anything hurt; but as to kissing—

St. C. Niggers, that you're not up to; eh?

Oph. Yes, that's it. How can she?

St. C. [*Laughing.*] O, that's the way with you, is it? [*Goes among the servants.*] Here, you all, Mammy, Sukey, Jinny, Polly—glad to see mas'r? Look out for the babies! [*Stumbling over one.*] If I step on anybody let 'em mention it. [*Sees Tom, and beckons.*] Here, Tom. See here, Marie, I've bought you a coachman, at last, to order. I tell you he's a regular hearse for blackness and sobriety, and will drive you like a funeral, if you want. Open your eyes, now, and look at him. Now, don't say I never think about you when I'm gone.

Mar. I know he'll get drunk.

St. C. No, he's warranted a pious and sober article.

Mar. Well, I hope he may turn out well; it's more than I expect, though.

St. C. 'Dolph, show Tom down stairs; and mind yourself; remember what I told you. [*Exit Tom and DOLPH.*]

Mar. He's a perfect behemoth!

St. C. Come, now, Marie, be gracious, and say something pretty to a fellow.

Mar. You've been gone a fortnight beyond the time.

St. C. Well, you know I wrote you the reason.

Mar. Such a short, cold letter!

St. C. Dear me! the mail was just going, and it had to be that or nothing.

Mar. That's just the way always; always something to make your journeys long, and letters short.

St. C. See here, now; here's a present I got for you in New York.

Mar. A daguerreotype! What made you sit in such an awkward position?

St. C. Well, the position may be a matter of opinion; but what do you think of the likeness?

Mar. If you don't think anything of my opinion in one case, I suppose you would n't in another.

St. C. Hang the woman! [*Aside.*] Come, now, Marie, what do you think of the likeness? Don't be nonsensical!

Mar. It's very inconsiderate of you, St. Clare, to insist on my talking and looking at things. You know I've been lying all day with the sick-headache; and there's been such a tumult made, ever since you came, I'm half dead.

Oph. You're subject to the sick-headache, ma'am?

Mar. Yes, I'm a perfect martyr to it.

Oph. Juniper-berry tea is good for sick-headache; at least, Augustine, Deacon Abraham Perry's wife used to say so; and she was a great nurse.

St. C. I'll have the first juniper-berries that get ripe in our garden by the lake brought in for that especial purpose. And now [*rings the bell.* *Enter MAMMY*], show this lady to her room. [*To MARIE, offering her his arm.*] Come, now — come — I've something for you in here — come. [*Exeunt ST. CLARE and MARIE.*]

SCENE II. — *A Parlor. A Breakfast Table.* MARIE, ST. CLARE, EVA, OPHELIA.

St. Clare. And now, Marie, your golden days are dawning. Here is our practical, business-like New England cousin, who will take the whole budget of cares off your shoulders, and give you time to refresh yourself, and grow young and handsome. The ceremony of delivering the keys had better come off forthwith.

Marie. I'm sure she's welcome. I think she'll find one thing, if she does, and that is, that it's we mistresses that are the slaves, down here.

St. C. O, certainly, she will discover that, and a world of wholesome truths beside, no doubt.

Mar. Talk about our keeping slaves, as if we did it for our convenience! I'm sure, if we consulted *that*, we might let them all go at once.

Eva. What do you keep them for, mamma?

Mar. I don't know, I'm sure, except for a plague; they are the plague of my life. I believe that more of my ill-health is caused by them than by any one thing; and ours, I know, are the very worst that ever anybody was plagued with.

St. C. O, come, Marie, you've got the blues this morning. You know 't is n't so. There's Mammy, the best creature living — what could you do without her?

Mar. Mammy is the best I ever knew ; and yet Mammy, now, is selfish — dreadfully selfish ; it 's the fault of the whole race.

St. C. Selfishness is a dreadful fault.

Mar. Well, now, there 's Mammy ; I think it 's selfish of her to sleep so sound at nights ; she knows I need little attentions almost every hour, when my worst turns are on, and yet she 's so hard to wake. I absolutely am worse, this very morning, for the efforts I had to make to wake her last night.

Eva. Has n't she sat up with you a good many nights lately, mamma ?

Mar. How should you know that ? She 's been complaining, I suppose.

Eva. She did n't complain ; she only told me what bad nights you 'd had — so many in succession !

St. C. Why don't you let Jane or Rosa take her place a night or two, and let her rest ?

Mar. How can you propose it ? St. Clare, you really are inconsiderate ! So nervous as I am, the least breath disturbs me ; and a strange hand about me would drive me absolutely frantic. If Mammy felt the interest in me she ought to, she 'd wake easier — of course she would. I 've heard of people who had such devoted servants, but it never was *my* luck. Now, Mammy has a *sort* of goodness ; she 's smooth and respectful, but she 's selfish at heart. Now, she never will be done fidgeting and worrying about that husband of hers. You see, when I was married and came to live here, of course I had to bring her with me, and her husband my father could n't spare. He was a blacksmith, and, of course, very necessary ; and I thought, and said at the time, that Mammy and he had better give each other up, as it was n't likely to be convenient for them ever to live together again. I wish now I 'd insisted on it, and married Mammy to somebody else ; but I was foolish and indulgent, and did n't want to insist. I told Mammy at the time that she must n't ever expect to see him more than once or twice in her life again, for the air of father's place does n't agree with my health, and I can't go there ; and I advised her to take up with somebody else ; but no — she would n't. Mammy has a kind of obstinacy about her, in spots, that everybody don't see as I do.

Oph. Has she children ?

Mar. Yes ; she has two.

Oph. I suppose she feels the separation from them ?

Mar. Well, of course, I could n't bring them. They were little, dirty things — I could n't have them about ; and, besides, they took up too much of her time ; but I believe that Mammy has always kept up a sort of sulkiness about this. She won't marry anybody else ; and I do believe now, though she knows how necessary she is to me, and how feeble my health is, she would go back to her husband tomorrow, if she only could. I *do*, indeed ; they are just so selfish, now, the best of them !

St. C. [*Dryly.*] It 's distressing to reflect upon.

Mar. Now, Mammy has always been a pet with me. I wish some of your northern servants could look at her closets of dresses — silks and muslins, and one real linen cambric, she has hanging there. I 've worked sometimes whole afternoons, trimming her caps, and getting

her ready to go to a party. As to abuse, she don't know what it is. She never was whipped in her whole life. She has her strong coffee or her tea every day, with white sugar in it. It's abominable, to be sure; but St. Clare will have high life below stairs, and they, every one of them, live just as they please. The fact is, our servants are over-indulged. I suppose it is partly our fault that they are selfish, and act like spoiled children; but I've talked to St. Clare till I am tired.

St. C. And I, too.

[*EVA goes to her mother, and puts her arms round her neck.*]

Mar. Well, Eva, what now?

Eva. Mamma, could n't I take care of you one night — just one? I know I should n't make you nervous, and I should n't sleep. I often lie awake nights, thinking —

Mar. O, nonsense, child — nonsense! You are such a strange child!

Eva. But may I, mamma? I think that Mammy is n't well. She told me her head ached all the time, lately.

Mar. O, that's just one of Mammy's fidgets! Mammy is just like all the rest of them — makes such a fuss about every little headache or finger-ache; it'll never do to encourage it — never! I'm principled about this matter; — [*To MISS OPHELIA*] you'll find the necessity of it. If you encourage servants in giving way to every little disagreeable feeling, and complaining of every little ailment, you'll have your hands full. I never complain myself; nobody knows what I endure. I feel it a duty to bear it quietly, and I do.

[*MISS OPHELIA looks amazed, and ST. CLARE breaks out laughing.*]

Mar. [*Putting her handkerchief to her eyes.*] St. Clare always laughs when I make the least allusion to my ill-health. I only hope the day won't come when he'll remember it.

St. C. Come, Eva, I'll take you down street with me.

[*Exit ST. CLARE and EVA.*]

Mar. Now, that's just like St. Clare! He never realizes, never can, and never will, what I suffer, and have for years. If I was one of the complaining sort, or ever made any fuss about my ailments, there would be some reason for it. Men do get tired, naturally, of a complaining wife. But I've kept things to myself, and borne, and borne, till St. Clare has got in the way of thinking I can bear anything. But it's no use talking, cousin. Well, here are the keys of the linen closet, and I hope you'll never let Jane or Rosa get hold of 'em or touch 'em. And I hope you'll be very particular about the way they fold the pillow-cases; I believe I'm foolishly particular, but I really have had a nervous headache for a week, from the way these girls fold pillow-cases, if they are not looked to. There's two or three kinds of sheeting — you'll observe them; I think it important to keep each kind by itself. And here are the keys of the store-room; you'll find Dinah always will be running after them — I dare say she has half the things out in the kitchen now. Dinah's a first-rate cook, and so she rules with a rod of iron — she knows her importance. She will insist on having everything she wants in the kitchen, and calling every five minutes for something; it tires me to death. But, then, what can one do? O! — there are the keys of some trunks of clothing in the blue chamber;

they 'll have to be hung out and aired, I suppose. Dear knows what a state you 'll find them in ; my poor head has n't allowed me to do anything these three months ; and Rosa and Jane have always insisted on making one excuse or another to go to them. I should n't wonder if half the things had been worn out. And as to marketing, and all that, you must ask St. Clare ; I 'm sure I don't know how that 's to be arranged. And now — O dear me ! how my head does ache ! — but — well — I believe I 've told you everything ; so that, when my next sick turn comes on, you 'll be able to go forward entirely without consulting me ; only about Eva — she requires watching.

Oph. She seems to be a good child, very ; I never saw a better child.

Mar. Eva 's peculiar. There are things about her so singular ; she is n't like me, now, a particle.

Oph. [*Aside.*] I hope she is n't.

Mar. Eva always was disposed to be with servants ; and I think that well enough with some children. Now, I always played with father's little negroes — it never did me any harm. But Eva, somehow, always seems to put herself on an equality with every creature that comes near her. It 's a strange thing about the child. I have never been able to break her of it. St. Clare, I believe, encourages her in it. The fact is, St. Clare indulges every creature under this roof but his own wife.

Oph. [*Coughs.*] Hem ! ahem !

Mar. Now, there 's no way with servants, but to *put them down*, and keep them down. It was always natural to me, from a child. Eva is enough to spoil a whole house-full. What she will do when she comes to keep house herself, I 'm sure I don't know. I hold to being *kind* to servants — I always am ; but you must make 'em *know their place*. Eva never does ; but there 's no getting into the child's head the first beginning of an idea what a servant's place is. You heard her offering to take care of me nights, to let Mammy sleep. That 's just a specimen of the way the child would be doing all the time, if she was left to herself.

Oph. Why, I suppose you think your servants are human creatures, and ought to have some rest when they are tired ?

Mar. Certainly, of course I 'm very particular in letting them have everything that comes convenient — anything that does n't put one at all out of the way, you know. Mammy can make up her sleep some time or other ; there 's no difficulty about that. She 's the sleepest concern that ever I saw. Sewing, standing, or sitting, that creature will go to sleep, and sleep anywhere and everywhere. No danger but Mammy gets sleep enough. But this treating servants as if they were exotic flowers or china vases is really ridiculous.

You see, cousin Ophelia, I don't often speak of myself. It is n't my *habit* ; 't is n't agreeable to me. In fact, I have n't strength to do it. But there are points where St. Clare and I differ. St. Clare never understood me — never appreciated me. I think it lies at the root of all my ill-health. St. Clare means well, I am bound to believe ; but men are constitutionally selfish and inconsiderate to women. That, at least, is my impression.

Oph. Where 's my knitting ? O — here 't is. [*Knits energetically.*]

Mar. You see, I brought my own property and servants into the

connection, when I married St. Clare, and I am legally entitled to manage them my own way. St. Clare had his fortune and his servants, and I'm well enough content he should manage them his way; but St. Clare will be interfering. He has wild, extravagant notions about things, particularly about the treatment of servants. He really does act as if he set his servants before me, and before himself, too; for he lets them make him all sorts of trouble, and never lifts a finger. Now, about some things St. Clare is really frightful — he frightens me — good-natured as he looks in general. Now, he has set down his foot that, come what will, there shall not be a blow struck in this house, except what he or I strike; and he does it in a way that I really dare not cross him. Well, you may see what that leads to; for St. Clare would n't raise his hand if every one of them walked over him; and I — you see how cruel it would be to require me to make the exertion. Now, you know these servants are nothing but grown-up children.

Oph. I don't know anything about it, and I thank the Lord that I don't!

Mar. Well, but you will have to know something, and know it to your cost, if you stay here. You don't know what a provoking, stupid, careless, unreasonable, childish, ungrateful set of wretches they are. You don't know, and you can't, the daily, hourly trials that beset a housekeeper from them, everywhere and every way. But it's no use to talk to St. Clare. He talks the strangest stuff. He says we have made them what they are, and ought to bear with them. He says their faults are all owing to us, and that it would be cruel to make the fault and punish it too. He says we should n't do any better in their place; just as if one could reason from them to us, you know!

Oph. Don't you believe that the Lord made them of one blood with us?

Mar. No, indeed, not I! A pretty story, truly! They are a degraded race.

Oph. Don't you think they've got immortal souls?

Mar. [*Yawning.*] O, well, that of course — nobody doubts that. But as to putting them on any sort of equality with us, you know, as if we could be compared, why, it's impossible! Now, St. Clare really has talked to me as if keeping Mammy from her husband was like keeping me from mine. There's no comparing in this way. Mammy could n't have the feelings that I should. It's a different thing altogether — of course it is; and yet St. Clare pretends not to see it. And just as if Mammy could love her little, dirty babies as I love Eva! Yet St. Clare once really and soberly tried to persuade me that it was my duty, with my weak health, and all I suffer, to let Mammy go back, and take somebody else in her place! That was a little too much, even for me to bear. I don't often show my feelings. I make it a principle to endure everything in silence; it's a wife's hard lot, and I bear it. But I did break out, that time, so that he has never alluded to the subject since. But I know by his looks, and little things that he says, that he thinks so as much as ever; and it's so trying, so provoking!

Oph. [*Rattling her needles.*] Hem! ahem!

Mar. So, you just see what you've got to manage. A household without any rule; where servants have it all their own way, do what

they please, and have what they please, except so far as I, with my feeble health, have kept up government.

Oph. And how 's that?

Mar. Why, send them to the calaboose, or some of the other places, to be flogged. That 's the only way. If I was n't such a poor, feeble piece, I believe I should manage with twice the energy that St. Clare does.

Oph. And how does St. Clare contrive to manage? You say he never strikes a blow.

Mar. Well, men have a more commanding way, you know ; it is easier for them. Besides, if you ever looked full in his eye, it 's peculiar — that eye — and, if he speaks decidedly, there 's a kind of flash. I 'm afraid of it, myself ; and the servants know they must mind. I could n't do as much by a regular storm and scolding, as St. Clare can by one turn of his eye, if once he is in earnest. O, there 's no trouble about St. Clare ! that 's the reason he has no more feeling for me. But you 'll find, when you come to manage, that there 's no getting along without severity — they are so bad, so deceitful, so lazy !

Enter St. CLARE.

St. Clare. The old tune ! What an awful account these wicked creatures will have to settle, at last, especially for being lazy ! You see, cousin, it 's wholly inexcusable in them, in the light of the example that Marie and I set them, this laziness.

Mar. Come, now, St. Clare, you are too bad.

St. C. Am I, now? Why, I thought I was talking good, quite remarkably for me. I try to enforce your remarks, Marie, always.

Mar. You know you mean no such thing, St. Clare.

St. C. O, I must have been mistaken, then ! Thank you, my dear, for setting me right.

Mar. You do really try to be provoking.

St. C. O, come, Marie, the day is growing warm, and I have just had a long quarrel with 'Dolph, which has fatigued me excessively ; so, pray be agreeable, now, and let a fellow repose in the light of your smile.

Mar. What 's the matter about 'Dolph? That fellow's impudence has been growing to a point that is perfectly intolerable to me. I only wish I had the undisputed management of him a while. I 'd bring him down !

St. C. What you say, my dear, is marked with your usual acuteness and good sense. As to 'Dolph, the case is this : that he has so long been engaged in imitating my graces and perfections, that he has at last really mistaken himself for his master, and I have been obliged to give him a little insight into his mistake.

Mar. How?

St. C. Why, I was obliged to let him understand explicitly that I preferred to keep *some* of my clothes for my own personal wearing ; also, I put his magnificence upon an allowance of cologne-water, and actually was so cruel as to restrict him to one dozen of my cambric handkerchiefs. 'Dolph was particularly huffy about it, and I had to talk to him like a father to bring him round.

Mar. O! St. Clare, when will you learn how to treat your servants? It's abominable, the way you indulge them!

St. C. Why, after all, what's the harm of the poor dog's wanting to be like his master? and if I have n't brought him up any better than to find his chief good in cologne and cambric handkerchiefs, why should n't I give them to him?

Oph. And why have n't you brought him up better?

St. C. Too much trouble; laziness, cousin, laziness — which ruins more souls than you can shake a stick at. If it were n't for laziness, I should have been a perfect angel, myself. I'm inclined to think that laziness is what your old Dr. Botherem, up in Vermont, used to call the "essence of moral evil." It's an awful consideration, certainly.

Oph. I think you slaveholders have an awful responsibility upon you. I would n't have it for a thousand worlds. You ought to educate your slaves, and treat them like reasonable creatures, like immortal creatures, that you've got to stand before the bar of God with. That's my mind.

St. C. O! come, come, what do you know about us?

[*Goes to the piano, and plays and sings.*]

Well, now, cousin, you've given us a good talk, and done your duty; on the whole, I think the better of you for it. I make no manner of doubt that you threw a very diamond of truth at me, though you see it hit me so directly in the face, that it was n't exactly appreciated at first.

Mar. For my part, I don't see any use in such sort of talk. I'm sure, if anybody does more for servants than we do, I'd like to know who; and it don't do 'em a bit good — not a particle; they get worse and worse. As to talking to them, or anything like that, I'm sure I have talked till I was tired and hoarse, telling them their duty, and all that; and I'm sure they can go to church when they like, though they don't understand a word of the sermon, more than so many pigs; so it is n't of any great use for them to go, as I see; but they do go, and so they have every chance. But, as I said before, they are a degraded race, and always will be, and there is n't any help for them; you can't make anything of them, if you try. You see, cousin Ophelia, I've tried, and you have n't; I was born and bred among them, and I know. [*St. CLARE whistles a tune.*] St. Clare, I wish you would n't whistle; it makes my head worse.

St. C. I won't. Is there anything else you would n't wish me to do?

Mar. I wish you *would* have some kind of sympathy for my trials; you never have any feeling for me.

St. C. My dear accusing angel!

Mar. It's provoking to be talked to in that way.

St. C. Then how will you be talked to? I'll talk to order — any way you'll mention, only to give satisfaction.

[*A laugh heard below in the court.*]

Oph. What is it? [*Rising and coming to the window.*] As I live! if there an't Eva, sitting in Uncle Tom's lap! Eugh! there, she's hanging a wreath of roses round his neck!

Eva. [*Below, laughing.*] O, Tom, you look so funny!

Oph. How can you let her?

St. C. Why not?

Oph. Why, I don't know, it seems so dreadful!

St. C. You would think no harm in a child's caressing a large dog, even if he was black; but a creature that can think, and reason, and feel, and is immortal, you shudder at; confess it, cousin. I know the feeling among some of you northerners well enough. Not that there is a particle of virtue in our not having it; but custom with us does what Christianity ought to do — obliterates the feeling of personal prejudice. I have often noticed, in my travels north, how much stronger this was with you than with us. You loathe them as you would a snake or a toad, yet you are indignant at their wrongs. You would not have them abused, but you don't want to have anything to do with them yourselves. You would send them to Africa, out of your sight and smell, and then send a missionary or two to do up all the self-denial of elevating them compendiously. Is n't that it?

Oph. Well, cousin, there may be some truth in this.

St. C. What would the poor and lowly do without children? Your little child is your only true democrat. Tom, now, is a hero to Eva; his stories are wonders in her eyes, his songs and Methodist hymns are better than an opera, and the traps and little bits of trash in his pocket a mine of jewels, and he the most wonderful Tom that ever wore a black skin. This is one of the roses of Eden that the Lord has dropped down expressly for the poor and lowly, who get few enough of any other kind.

Oph. It's strange, cousin; one might almost think you were a professor, to hear you talk.

St. C. A professor?

Oph. Yes; a professor of religion.

St. C. Not at all; not a professor, as your town folks have it; and, what is worse, I'm afraid, not a *practiser*, either.

Oph. What makes you talk so, then?

St. C. Nothing is easier than talking. I believe Shakspeare makes somebody say, "I could sooner teach twenty what were good to be done, than be one of the twenty to follow my own teaching." Nothing like division of labor. My forte lies in talking, and yours, cousin, lies in doing.

SCENE III. — *Sabbath Morning. The Hall.*

Enter MARIE and MISS OPHELIA, dressed for church.

Marie. Where's Eva?

Ophelia. The child stopped on the stairs, to say something to Mammy.

Enter Eva.

Mar. Eva, what were you stopping for?

Eva. I was just stopping to give Mammy my vinaigrette, to take to church with her.

Mar. Eva! your gold vinaigrette to *Mammy!* When will you learn what's *proper?* Go right and take it back, this moment!

Enter ST. CLARE.

St. C. I say, Marie, let the child alone; she shall do as she pleases.

Mar. St. Clare, how will she ever get along in the world?

St. C. The Lord knows; but she'll get along in heaven better than you or I.

Eva. O papa! don't; it troubles mother.

Oph. Well, cousin, are you ready to go to meeting?

St. C. I'm not going, thank you.

Mar. I do wish St. Clare ever would go to church; but he has n't a particle of religion about him. It really is n't respectable.

St. C. I know it. You ladies go to church to learn how to get along in the world, I suppose, and your piety sheds respectability on us. If I do go at all, I would go where Mammy goes; there's something to keep a fellow awake there, at least.

Mar. What! those shouting Methodists? Horrible!

St. C. Anything but the dead sea of your respectable churches, Marie. Positively, it's too much to ask of a man. Eva, do you like to go? Come, stay at home and play with me.

Eva. Thank you, papa, but I'd rather go to church.

St. C. Is n't it dreadful tiresome?

Eva. I think it is tiresome, some, and I am sleepy, too; but I try to keep awake.

St. C. What do you go for, then?

Eva. Why, you know, papa, cousin told me that God wants to have us; and he gives us everything, you know; and it is n't much to do it, if he wants us to. It is n't so very tiresome, after all.

St. C. You sweet little obliging soul! go along, that's a good girl, and pray for me.

Eva. Certainly, I always do.

[*Exeunt.*]

St. C. [*Solus.*] O Evangeline! rightly named; hath not God made thee an evangel to me?

SCENE IV. — *The Dinner Table.* ST. CLARE, MARIE, OPHELIA, EVA, SERVANTS.

St. Clare. Well, ladies, and what was the bill of fare at church today?

Marie. O, Dr. G—— preached a splendid sermon! It was just such a sermon as you ought to hear; it expressed all my views exactly.

St. C. How very improving! The subject must have been an extensive one.

Mar. Well, I mean all my views about society and such things. The text was, "He hath made everything beautiful in its season;" and he showed how all the orders and distinctions in society came from God; and that it was so appropriate, you know, and beautiful, that some should be high and some low, and that some were born to rule

and some to serve, and all that, you know; and he applied it so well to all this ridiculous fuss that is made about slavery, and he proved distinctly that the Bible was on our side, and supported all our institutions so convincingly, I only wish you 'd heard him.

St. C. O, I did n't need it! I can learn what does me as much good as that from the Picayune any time, and smoke a cigar besides; which I can't do, you know, in a church.

Oph. Why, don't you believe in these views?

St. C. Who — I? You know I'm such a graceless dog that these religious aspects of such subjects don't edify me much. If I was to say anything on this slavery matter, I would say out, fair and square, "We're in for it; we've got 'em and mean to keep 'em — it's for our convenience and our interest;" for that 's the long and short of it; that 's just the whole of what all this sanctified stuff amounts to, after all; and I think that will be intelligible to everybody everywhere.

Mar. I do think, Augustine, you are so irreverent! I think it 's shocking to hear you talk.

St. C. Shocking! it 's the truth. This religious talk on such matters, why don't they carry it a little further, and show the beauty, in its season, of a fellow's taking a glass too much, and sitting a little too late over his cards, and various providential arrangements of that sort, which are pretty frequent among us young men? We'd like to hear that these are right and godly too.

Oph. Well, do you think slavery right or wrong?

St. C. [*Gayly.*] I'm not going to have any of your horrid New England directness, cousin. If I answer that question, I know you'll be at me with half a dozen others, each one harder than the last, and I'm not a-going to define my position. I am one of that sort that lives by throwing stones at other people's glass-houses; but I never mean to put up one for them to stone.

Mar. That 's just the way he 's always talking; you can't get any satisfaction out of him. I believe it 's just because he don't like religion that he 's always running out in this way he 's been doing.

St. C. Religion! Religion! Is what you have been hearing at church religion? Is that which can bend and turn, and descend and ascend, to fit every crooked phase of selfish, worldly society, religion? Is that religion which is less scrupulous, less generous, less just, less considerate for man than even my own ungodly, worldly, blinded nature? No! When I look for a religion, I must look for something above me, and not something beneath.

Oph. Then you don't believe that the Bible justifies slavery?

St. C. The Bible was my *mother's* book. By it she lived and died, and I would be very sorry to think it did. I'd as soon desire to have it proved that my mother could drink brandy, chew tobacco, and swear, by way of satisfying me that I did right in doing the same. It would n't make me at all more satisfied with these things in myself, and it would take from me the comfort of respecting her; and it really is a comfort, in this world, to have anything one can respect. In short, you see [*gayly*], all I want is that different things be kept in different boxes. The whole framework of society, both in Europe and America, is made up of various things which will not stand the scrutiny of any very ideal standard of morality. It 's pretty generally understood that

men don't aspire after the absolute right, but only to do about as well as the rest of the world. Now, when any one speaks up, like a man, and says slavery is necessary to us, we can't get along without it, we should be beggared if we give it up, and, of course, we mean to hold on to it — this is strong, clear, well-defined language; it has the respectability of truth to it; and, if we may judge by their practice, the majority of the world will bear us out in it. But when he begins to put on a long face, and snuffle and quote Scripture, I incline to think he is n't much better than he should be.

Mar. You are very uncharitable.

St. C. Well, suppose that something should bring down the price of cotton once and forever, and make the whole slave property a drug in the market; don't you think we should soon have another version of the Scripture doctrine? What a flood of light would pour into the church, all at once, and how immediately it would be discovered that everything in the Bible and reason went the other way!

Mar. Well, at any rate, I'm thankful I'm born where slavery exists; and I believe it's right — indeed, I feel it must be; and, at any rate, I'm sure I could n't get along without it.

Enter EVA.

St. C. [*To EVA.*] I say, what do you think, pussy?

Eva. What about, papa?

St. C. Why, which do you like the best; to live as they do at your uncle's, up in Vermont, or to have a house-full of servants, as we do?

Eva. O, of course, our way is the pleasantest!

St. C. Why so?

Eva. Why, it makes so many more round you to love, you know.

Mar. Now, that's just like Eva; just one of her odd speeches.

Eva. Is it an odd speech, papa?

St. C. Rather, as this world goes, pussy. But where has my little Eva been, all dinner-time?

Eva. O, I've been up in Tom's room, hearing him sing, and Aunt Dinah gave me my dinner.

St. C. Hearing Tom sing, eh?

Eva. O, yes! He sings such beautiful things about the New Jerusalem, and bright angels, and the land of Canaan.

St. C. I dare say; it's better than the opera, is n't it?

Eva. Yes; and he's going to teach them to me.

St. C. Singing-lessons, eh? — you are coming on.

Eva. Yes, he sings for me, and I read to him in my Bible; and he explains what it means, you know.

Mar. On my word, that is the latest joke of the season.

St. C. Tom is n't a bad hand, now, at explaining Scripture, I'll dare swear. Tom has a natural genius for religion. I wanted the horses out early this morning, and I stole up to Tom's cubiculum there, over the stables, and there I heard him holding a meeting by himself; and, in fact, I have n't heard anything quite so savory as Tom's prayer this some time. He put in for me with a zeal that was quite apostolic.

Mar. Perhaps he guessed you were listening. I've heard of that trick before.

St. C. If he did, he was n't very polite; for he gave the Lord his opinion of me pretty freely. Tom seemed to think there was decidedly room for improvement in me, and seemed very earnest that I should be converted.

Oph. I hope you'll lay it to heart.

St. C. [*Gayly.*] I suppose you are much of the same opinion. Well, we shall see — shan't we, Eva?

SCENE V. — *The Kitchen.*

DINAH (*smoking*). *Negro children playing about.*

Dinah. 'Still there, ye young 'uns, 'sturbin' me, while I's takin' my smoke!

Enter JANE and ROSA.

Rosa. Well, such a time as there's been in the house to-day, I never saw! Such a rummagin' and frummagin' in bandboxes and closets! — everything dragged out! Hate these yer northen misses!

Jane. Laws! ye orter seen her to the sheet trunk! Wan't it as good as a play to see her turn 'em out!

Bob. [*From floor.*] Tell ye, ef she don't sail round the house, coat-tail standin' out abind her! Bound if she don't clar every one on us off the verandys minnit we shows our faces!

Dinah. An't gwine to have her in my diggin's, sturbin' my ideas! Never let Miss Marie interfere, and she sartin' shan't, *her!* Allus telled Miss Marie the kitchen wan't no place for ladies; Miss Marie got sense — she know'd it; but these yer northen misses — Good Lor! who is she, anyhow?

Rosa. Why, she's Mas'r St. Clare's cousin!

Dinah. 'Lation, is she? Poor, too, an't she? — hearn tell they done their own work up thar. Anything I hate, it's these yer poor 'lations!

Rosa. Hush! here she comes!

Enter MISS OPHELIA.

Ophelia. [*Advances and opens a drawer.*] What's this drawer for, Dinah?

Dinah. Handy for most anything, missis.

Oph. [*Rummaging — draws out a table-cloth.*] What's this? A beautiful French damask table-cloth, all stained and bloody! Why, Dinah, you don't wrap up meat in your mistress' best damask table-cloths?

Dinah. O Lor, missis, no! the towels was all a missin' — so I jest did it. I laid out to wash that ar — that's why I put it thar.

Oph. [*Disgusted — still rummaging.*] Shiftless! What's here? — nutmeg-grater — Methodist hymn-book — knitting-work! Faugh! — filthy old pipe! Faugh! what a sight! Where do you keep your nutmegs, Dinah?

Dinah. Most anywhar, missis ; there 's some in that cracked tea-cup up there, and there 's some over in that ar cuboard.

Oph. Here are some in the grater.

Dinah. Laws, yes ! I put 'em there this morning. I likes to keep my things handy. You, Bob ! what are you stopping for ? You 'll catch it ! Be still thar ! [*Striking at him with a stick.*]

Oph. What 's this ? [*Holding up a saucer.*]

Dinah. Laws, it 's my har grease ; I put it thar to have it handy.

Oph. Do you use your mistress' best saucers for that ?

Dinah. Law ! it was cause I was driv, and in sich a hurry ; I was gwine to change it this very day.

Oph. Here are two damask table-napkins.

Dinah. Them table-napkins I put thar to get 'em washed out, some day.

Oph. Don't you have some place here on purpose for things to be washed ?

Dinah. Well, Mas'r St. Clare got dat ar chest, he said, for dat ; but I likes to mix up biscuit and hev my things on it some days, and then it an't handy a liftin' up the lid.

Oph. Why don't you mix your biscuits on the pastry-table, there ?

Dinah. Law, missis, it gets sot so full of dishes, and one thing and another, der an't no room, noways—

Oph. But you should wash your dishes, and clear them away.

Dinah. [*Enraged.*] Wash my dishes ! What does ladies know 'bout work, I want to know ? When 'd mas'r ever get his dinner if I was to spend all my time a washin' and a puttin' up dishes ? Miss Marie never telled me so, nohow.

Oph. Well, here are these onions.

Dinah. Laws, yes ! thar is whar I put em, now. I could n't 'member. Them 's particular onions I was a savin' for dis yer very stew. I 'd forgot they was in dat ar old flannel. [*Miss OPHELIA lifts a paper of herbs.*] I wish missis would n't touch dem ar. I likes to keep my things whar I knows whar to go to 'em.

Oph. But you don't want these holes in the papers.

Dinah. Them 's handy for siftin' on't out.

Oph. But you see it spills all over the drawer.

Dinah. Laws, yes ! if missis will go a tumblin' things all up so, it will. Missis has spilt lots dat ar way. If missis only will go up stars till my clarin'-up time comes, I 'll have everything right ; but I can't do nothin' when ladies is round, a henderin'. You, Sam, don't you gib the baby dat ar sugar-bowl ! I 'll crack ye over, if ye don't mind !

Oph. I 'm going through the kitchen, and going to put everything in order once, Dinah ; and then I 'll expect you to keep it so.

Dinah. Lor, now ! Miss 'Phelia, dat ar an't no way for ladies to do. I never did see ladies doin' no sich ; my old missis nor Miss Marie never did, and I don't see no kinder need on't.

[*Exit DINAH, indignant.*]

Enter ST. CLARE.

Oph. There is no such thing as getting anything like system in this family!

St. Clare. To be sure there is n't.

Oph. Such shiftless management, such waste, such confusion, I never saw!

St. C. I dare say you did n't.

Oph. You would not take it so coolly if you were housekeeper.

St. C. My dear cousin, you may as well understand, once for all, that we masters are divided into two classes, oppressors and oppressed. We who are good-natured, and hate severity, make up our minds to a good deal of inconvenience. If we *will keep* a shambling, loose, untaught set in the community for our convenience, why, we must take the consequence. Some rare cases I have seen of persons who, by a peculiar tact, can produce order and system without severity; but I'm not one of them, and so I made up my mind, long ago, to let things go just as they do. I will not have the poor devils thrashed and cut to pieces, and they know it; and, of course, they know the staff is in their own hands.

Oph. But to have no time, no place, no order — all going on in this shiftless way!

St. C. My dear Vermont, your natives up by the North Pole set an extravagant value on time! What on earth is the use of time to a fellow who has twice as much of it as he knows what to do with? As to order and system, where there is nothing to be done but lounge on the sofa and read, an hour sooner or later in breakfast or dinner is n't of much account. Now, there's Dinah, gets you a capital dinner — soup, ragout, roast fowl, dessert, ice-creams and all — and she creates it all out of Chaos and old Night out here in this kitchen. I think it really sublime, the way she manages. But, Heaven bless us! if we were to come out here, and view all the smoking and squatting about, the hurryscurryation of the preparatory process, we should never eat more. My good cousin, absolve yourself from that! It's more than a Catholic penance, and does no more good. You'll only lose your temper, and utterly confound Dinah. Let her go her own way.

Oph. But, Augustine, you don't know how I found things.

St. C. Don't I? Don't I know that the rolling-pin is under her bed, and the nutmeg-grater in her pocket with her tobacco — that there are sixty-five different sugar-bowls, one in every hole in the house — that she washes dishes with a dinner-napkin one day, and with the fragment of an old petticoat the next? But the upshot is, she gets up glorious dinners, makes superb coffee; and you must judge her, as warriors and statesmen are judged, by *her success*.

Oph. But the waste — the expense!

St. C. O, well! lock everything you can, and keep the key. Give out by dribblets, and never inquire for odds and ends — it is n't best.

Oph. That troubles me, Augustine. I can't help feeling as if these servants were not *strictly honest*. Are you sure they can be relied on?

St. C. [*Laughing.*] O, cousin, that's too good! *Honest!* — as

if that 's a thing to be expected ! Honest ! — why, of course they arn't. Why should they be? What upon earth is to make them so?

Oph. Why don't you instruct?

St. C. Instruct? O, fiddlestick ! What instructing do you think I should do? I look like it ! As to Marie, she has spirit enough, to be sure, to kill off a whole plantation, if I'd let her manage ; but she would n't get the cheaterly out of them.

Oph. Are there no honest ones?

St. C. Well, now and then one, whom nature makes so impracticably simple, truthful and faithful, that the worst possible influence can't destroy it. But, you see, from the mother's breast the colored child feels and sees that there are none but underhand ways open to it. It can get along no other way with its parents, its mistress, its young master and missie playfellows. Cunning and deception become necessary, inevitable habits. It is n't fair to expect anything else of him. He ought not to be punished for it. As to honesty, the slave is kept in that dependent, semi-childish state, that there is no making him realize the rights of property, or feel that his master's goods are not his own, if he can get them. For my part, I don't see how they *can* be honest. Such a fellow as Tom here is, is a moral miracle !

Oph. And what becomes of their souls?

St. C. That is n't my affair, as I know of. I am only dealing in facts of the present life. The fact is, that the whole race are pretty generally understood to be turned over to the devil, for our benefit, in this world, however it may turn out in another !

Oph. This is perfectly horrible ! You ought to be ashamed of yourselves !

St. C. I don't know as I am. We are in pretty good company, for all that, as people in the broad road generally are.

SCENE VI. — *New Orleans. A Parlor in St. CLARE'S House.*

Enter St. CLARE and TOPSY.

St. Clare. Come down here, cousin ; I've something to show you.

Enter Miss OPHELIA, sewing in hand.

Ophelia. What is it?

St. Clare. I've made a purchase for your department — see here.

Oph. Augustine, what in the world did you bring that thing here for?

St. C. For you to educate, to be sure, and train in the way she should go. I thought she was rather a funny specimen in the Jim Crow line. Here, Topsy, this is your new mistress. I'm going to give you up to her ; see, now, that you behave yourself.

Topsy. Yes, mas'r.

St. C. You're going to be good, Topsy, you understand.

Top. O, yes, mas'r !

Oph. Now, Augustine, what upon earth is this for? Your house is so full of these little plagues, now, that a body can't set their feet

down without treading on 'em. I get up in the morning, and find one asleep behind the door, and see one black head poking out from under the table, one lying on the door-mat; and they are mopping, and mowing, and grinning between all the railings, and tumbling over the kitchen floor! What on earth did you want to bring this one for?

St. C. For you to educate — did n't I tell you? You're always preaching about educating. I thought I would make you a present of a fresh-caught specimen, and let you try your hand on her, and bring her up in the way she should go.

Oph. I don't want her, I am sure; I have more to do with 'em now than I want to.

St. C. That's you Christians, all over! You'll get up a society, and get some poor missionary to spend all his days among just such heathen. But let me see one of you that would take one into your house with you, and take the labor of their conversion on yourselves! No; when it comes to that, they are dirty and disagreeable, and it's too much care, and so on.

Oph. Augustine, you know I did n't think of it in that light. Well, it might be a real missionary work. But I really did n't see the need of buying this one — there are enough now in your house to take all my time and skill.

St. C. Well, then, cousin, I ought to beg your pardon for my good-for-nothing speeches. You are so good, after all, that there's no sense in them. Why, the fact is, this concern belonged to a couple of drunken creatures that keep a low restaurant, that I have to pass by every day, and I was tired of hearing her screaming, and them beating and swearing at her. She looked bright and funny, too, as if something might be made of her; so I bought her, and I'll give her to you. Try, now, and give her a good orthodox New England bringing-up, and see what it'll make of her. You know I have n't any gift that way, but I'd like you to try.

Oph. Well, I'll do what I can. Come here, Topsy. How old are you?

Topsy. Dun no, missis.

Oph. Don't know how old you are? Did n't anybody ever tell you? Who was your mother?

Top. Never had none!

Oph. Never had any mother? What do you mean? Where was you born?

Top. Never was born!

Oph. You must n't answer me in that way, child; I'm not playing with you. Tell me where you were born, and who your father and mother were.

Top. Never was born; never had no father nor mother, nor nothin'! I was raised by a speculator, with lots of others. Old Aunt Sue used to take car of us.

Enter JANE, DINAH, and ROSA.

Jane. Laws, missis, there's heaps of 'em! Speculators buys 'em up cheap, when they's little, and gets 'em raised for market.

Oph. How long have you lived with your master and mistress?

Top. Dun no, missis.

Oph. Is it a year, or more, or less?

Top. Dun no, missis.

Jane. Laws, missis, those low negroes, they can't tell; they don't know anything about time; they don't know what a year is; they don't know their own ages.

Oph. Have you ever heard anything about God, Topsy?

Top. [*Grins.*]

Oph. Do you know who made you?

Top. Nobody, as I knows on. I 'spect I grow'd. Don't think nobody never made me.

Oph. Do you know how to sew?

Top. No, missis.

Oph. What can you do? What did you do for your master and mistress?

Top. Fetch water, and wash the dishes, and rub knives, and wait on folks.

Oph. Were they good to you?

Top. 'Spect they was.

Dinah. [*Lifting up both hands.*] Good Lor', what a limb! What on 'arth Mas'r St. Care want to bring on dese yer low nigger young 'uns here for? Wont have her round under my feet, I know.

Oph. Well, go to your work, all of you. [*Exeunt JANE, DINAH, and ROSA.*] Come, Topsy, to my room. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VII. — *A Bed-room.* MISS OPHELIA and TOPSY.

Ophelia. Now, Topsy, I'm going to show you just how my bed is to be made. I am very particular about my bed. You must learn exactly how to do it.

Topsy. Yes, ma'am.

Oph. Now, Topsy, look here; this is the hem of the sheet — this is the right side of the sheet, and this is the wrong; will you remember?

Top. Yes, ma'am.

Oph. Well, now, the under sheet you must bring over the bolster — so — and tuck it clear down under the mattress nice and smooth — so; do you see?

Top. Yes, ma'am.

Oph. But the upper sheet must be brought down in this way, and tucked under firm and smooth at the foot — so — the narrow hem at the foot.

Top. Yes, ma'am. [*Adroitly snatching a pair of gloves and a ribbon, and hiding them in her sleeve.*]

Oph. Now, Topsy, let's see you do this.

[*As Topsy goes to make the bed, the ribbon hangs out of her sleeve.*]

Oph. [*Seizing it.*] What's this? You naughty, wicked child — you've been stealing this!

Top. Laws! why, that ar's Miss Feely's ribbon, an't it? How could it a got in my sleeve?

Oph. Topsy, you naughty girl, don't you tell me a lie ; you stole that ribbon !

Top. Missis, I declar for 't, I did n't ; never seed it till dis yer blessed minnit !

Oph. Topsy, don't you know it 's wicked to tell lies ?

Top. I never tells no lies, Miss Feely ; it 's jist the truth I 've been a tellin' now, and an't nothin' else.

Oph. Topsy, I shall have to whip you, if you tell lies so.

Top. Laws, missis, if you 's to whip all day, could n't say no other way. I never seed dat ar — it must a got caught in my sleeve. Miss Feely must have left it on the bed, and it got caught in the clothes, and so got in my sleeve.

Oph. [*Shaking her.*] Don't you tell me that again ! [*The gloves fall out.*] There, you ! will you tell me now you did n't steal the ribbon ?

Top. Laws, missis, I did steal dem ar gloves — but I never did take dat ar ribbon, in the world, never !

Oph. Now, Topsy ! If you 'll confess all about it, I won't whip you this time.

Top. Well, den, missis, I did take de ribbon and de gloves both, I did so.

Oph. Well, now, tell me. I know you must have taken other things since you have been in the house, for I let you run about all day yesterday. Now, tell me if you took anything, and I shan't whip you.

Top. Laws, missis ! I took Miss Eva's red thing she wars on her neck.

Oph. You did, you naughty child ! Well, what else ?

Top. I took Rosa's yer-rings — them red ones.

Oph. Go bring them to me this minute, both of 'em.

Top. Laws, missis, I can't — they 's burnt up !

Oph. Burnt up ? what a story ! Go get 'em, or I 'll whip you !

Top. [*Crying and groaning.*] I can't, missis, I can't no how ! Dey 's burnt up — dey is.

Oph. What did you burn 'em up for ?

Top. 'Cause I 's wicked — I is. I 's mighty wicked, any how. I can't help it, no how.

Enter EVA, with the coral necklace on her neck.

Oph. Why, Eva, where did you get your necklace ?

Eva. Get it ? Why, I 've had it on all day.

Oph. Did you have it on yesterday ?

Eva. Yes ; and what is funny, aunty, I had it on all night. I forgot to take it off when I went to bed.

Enter ROSA, with a basket of newly-ironed linen poised on her head, and the coral ear-drops shaking in her ears.

Oph. [*In despair.*] I 'm sure I can't tell anything what to do with such a child ! What in the world did you tell me you took those things for, Topsy ?

Top. Why, missis said I must 'fess; and I could n't think of nothin' else to 'fess.

Oph. But, of course, I did n't want you to confess things you did n't do; that 's telling a lie, just as much as the other.

Top. Laws, now, is it? Why, how curus!

Rosa. La, there an't any such thing as truth in that limb! If I was Mas'r St. Clare, I'd whip her till the blood run, I would! I'd let her catch it!

Eva. No, no, Rosa! you must n't talk so, Rosa. I can't bear to hear it.

Rosa. La, sakes! Miss Eva, you 's so good, you don't know nothing how to get along with niggers. There 's no way but cut 'em well up, I tell ye.

Eva. Rosa, hush! Don't you say another word of that sort.

Rosa. Miss Eva has got the St. Clare blood in her, that 's plain. She can speak for all the world just like her papa. [*Exit ROSA.*]

Oph. Well, I don't know anything what I shall do with you, Topsy.

Top. Laws, missis, you must whip me! Ole missis always whipped me. I s'pects 's good for me.

Oph. Why, Topsy, I don't want to whip you. You can do well if you 've a mind to. What 's the reason you won't?

Top. Why, missis, I 's so used to whippin'.

Oph. Well, I shall shut you in this closet, to think of your ways a while.

Eva. [*Goes up to Topsy.*] Poor Topsy, why need you steal? You 're going to be taken good care of now. I'm suré I'd rather give you anything of mine than have you steal it.

Top. Ha! ha! dat ar 's curus! Well, I 's gwine in de closet — mebbe I 'll come out better. [*Goes in.*]

[*Exeunt EVA and MISS OPHELIA.*]

SCENE VIII. — *A Veranda.* ST. CLARE *lounging on a sofa.* MISS OPHELIA *sewing.*

Ophelia. Topsy!

Topsy. Hear me!

Oph. Let me see if you can say your catechism; and if you can you may go and play. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?

Top. [*Repeating very rapidly.*] Covenant being made with Adam not only for hisself but for his posterity, all mankind 'scending from him by ordinar transgression, sinned wid him, and fell in him, in that fust generation.

Oph. Stop! stop!! stop!!! Topsy. Why, how are you saying it?

St. Clare. Why, what 's the odds? I don't see but that it makes as good sense one way as the other.

Oph. St. Clare! now — how can I teach this child if you will talk so? And now you 're laughing!

St. C. I'm done. Proceed. Topsy! you careless hussy, mind yourself! Be sure you get everything in right end first. Now for it!

Oph. Into what state did the fall bring all mankind?

Top. Fall brought all mankind into a state of sin and misery. Please ma'am — ?

Oph. What, Topsy ?

Top. Dat ar state Kintuck? De Lor' knows dey has sin and misery 'nough dar !

Oph. Hush, hush, Topsy !

St. C. No personal reflections, Topsy !

Top. Please, missis, can't I go play? Dat ar 'bout the generations was so curus ! Never kin get it right nohow !

St. C. O, yes, coz, let her go. I want you to go up stairs and look at a new carpet I've been buying for Eva's room. There, Topsy, there's some candy for you. Next time get the words straight.

[*Exeunt* ST. CLARE and OPHELIA.]

Enter JAKE, AMANDA, and other negro children.

Topsy. Dar now, ye niggers ! I 'se gittin' eddecated, I is ; 'cause I b'longs to Miss Feely. I larns catechize every day, and you por trash don't. Laws, you 's runnin' wild all the while ! What does you know? Doos you know you 's all sinners? Wal, you is, everybody is. White folks is sinners, too — Miss Feely says so ; but I 'spects niggers is the biggest ones ; but, lor ! ye an't any on ye up to me. I 's so awful wicked there can't nobody do nothin' with me. I used to keep old missis a swarin' at me half de time. I 'spects I 's the wickedest crittur in the world.

Jake. Ah ! Den ye 'll go to torment one dese days, anyhow. Ye won't be quite so crank then.

Top. No I shan't — I 's bound to go to heaven, I is.

Amanda. No ye won't, neither !

Top. Shall too ! Miss Feely 's bound to go thar, and they 'll have to let me come too ; cors she 's so curus they won't nobody else know how to wait on her dar ! Come, now, be still touching that thing of mine, or I 'll crack ye over !

[*Exit* JAKE, running with TOPSY'S thimble. TOPSY follows, with all the rest, in pursuit.]

SCENE IX. — *An Arbor, looking out on Lake Ponchartrain.* UNCLE TOM and EVA.

Eva. O, Uncle Tom, I'm going to read you some such beautiful places ! — now, *this* : “ Behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne ; and he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone ; and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. And round about the throne were four-and-twenty seats ; and upon the seats I saw four-and-twenty elders sitting clothed in white raiment, and they had on their heads crowns of gold.” Only think of it ! [*She turns to another place.*] And, now, *this* : “ And I saw, as it were, a sea of glass, mingled with fire, and them that had gotten the victory over the beast stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God, and they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb ; saying, Great and marvel-

lous are thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." [Pointing to the lake.] There 't is, Uncle Tom! see! there 't is — a sea of glass mingled with fire!

Uncle Tom. What, Miss Eva?

Eva. Don't you see — there, that water? There 's a "sea of glass mingled with fire."

Uncle T. True enough, Miss Eva. [Sings.]

"O, had I the wings of the morning,
I'd fly away to Canaan's shore!
Bright angels should convey me home,
To the new Jerusalem."

Eva. Where do you suppose new Jerusalem is, Uncle Tom?

Uncle T. O, up in the clouds, Miss Eva!

Eva. Then, I think I see it! Look in these clouds! they look like great gates of pearl; and you can see way, way beyond them — far, far off — it 's all gold. Tom, sing about "spirits bright!"

Uncle T. [Sings.]

"O, what hath Jesus bought for me!
Before my wondering eyes
Rivers of pure delight I see,
And streams of Paradise.

"I see a band of spirits bright,
That taste the glories there;
They all are robed in spotless white,
And conquering palms they bear."

Eva. Uncle Tom, I 've seen them! They come to me sometimes in my sleep, those spirits. [Sings.]

"They all are robed in spotless white,
And conquering palms they bear."

Uncle Tom, I 'm going there.

Uncle T. Where, Miss Eva?

Eva. [Rising and pointing up.] I 'm going there, to the spirits bright, Tom; I 'm going before long.

Oph. [Calling from a distance.] Eva! Eva! child — come in; the dew is falling! you must not be out there!

SCENE X. — *A Veranda.* ST. CLARE and MARIE reclining on lounges.

Marie. I say, Augustine, I must send to the city after my old doctor Posey; I 'm sure I 've got the complaint of the heart.

St. Clare. Well; why need you send for him? This doctor that attends Eva seems skilful.

Mar. I would not trust him in a critical case; and I think I may say mine is becoming so! I 've been thinking of it these two or three nights past; I have such distressing pains, and such strange feelings.

St. C. O, Marie, you are blue! I don't believe it 's heart complaint.

Mar. I dare say *you* don't ; I was prepared to expect *that*. You can be alarmed enough, if *Eva* coughs, or has the least thing the matter with her ; but you never think of me.

St. C. If it 's particularly agreeable to you to have heart disease, why, I 'll try and maintain you have it. I did n't know it was.

Mar. Well, I only hope you won't be sorry for this when it 's too late ! But, believe it or not, my distress about *Eva*, and the exertions I have made with that dear child, have developed what I have long suspected.

St. C. O, here comes cousin from her excursion ! [*Enter Miss OPHELIA and EVA.*] Well, coz, what success in the religious line ? Did you find a preacher ?

Oph. Wait till I put my bonnet and shawl away. [*Exit.*]

St. C. Here, *Eva*, you come to me.

Eva. [*Climbs into her father's lap.*]

Oph. [*Within.*] What 's this ! You wicked little hussy, you ! Come out here ! Come out this very minute !

St. C. What new witchcraft has *Topsy* been brewing ?

Enter Miss OPHELIA, dragging TOPSY.

Oph. Come out here, now ! I *will* tell your master !

St. C. What 's the row, pray ?

Oph. The fact is, I cannot be plagued with this child any longer ! It 's past all bearing ; flesh and blood cannot endure it ! Here I locked her up, and gave her a hymn to study ; and what does she do but spy out where I put my key, and has gone to my bureau, and got a bonnet-trimming, and cut it all to pieces, to make dolls' jackets ! I never saw anything like it in my life !

Mar. I told you, cousin, that you 'd find out that these creatures can't be brought up without severity. If I had *my* way, now, I 'd send that child out, and have her thoroughly whipped. I 'd have her whipped till she could n't stand.

St. C. I don't doubt it. Tell me of the lovely rule of woman ! I never saw above a dozen women that would n't half kill a horse, or a servant, either, if they had their own way with them, let alone a man !

Mar. There is no use in this shilly-shally way of yours, *St. Clare* ! Cousin is a woman of sense, and she sees it now, as plainly as I do.

Oph. I would n't have the child treated so, for the world ; but I am sure, *Augustine*, I don't know what to do. I 've taught and taught ; I 've talked till I 'm tired ; I 've whipped her ; I 've punished her in every way I can think of ; and still she 's just what she was at first.

St. C. Come here, *Topsy*, you monkey ! [*Topsy comes.*] What makes you behave so ?

Top. 'Spects it 's my wicked heart ; *Miss Feely* says so !

St. C. Don't you see how much *Miss Ophelia* has done for you ? She says she has done everything she can think of.

Top. Lor, yes, mas'r ! ole missis used to say so, too. She whipped me a heap harder, and used to pull my har, and knock my head agin the door ; but it did n't do me no good ; I 'spects, if they 's to pull

every spear o' har out o' my head, it would n't do no good, neither — I's so wicked! Laws! I's nothing but a nigger, no ways!

Oph. Well, I shall have to give her up; I can't have that trouble any longer.

St. C. Well, I'd just like to ask one question.

Oph. What is it?

St. C. Why, if your Gospel is not strong enough to save one heathen child, that you can have at home here all to yourself, what's the use of sending one or two poor missionaries off with it among thousands of just such? I suppose this child is about a fair sample of what thousands of your heathen are.

Eva. [*Beckons to Topsy, who follows her to the end of the veranda.*]

St. C. What's Eva going about now? I mean to see.

Eva. What does make you so bad, Topsy? Why won't you try and be good? Don't you love *anybody*, Topsy?

Top. Dujno nothing 'bout love; I loves candy and sich, that's all.

Eva. But you love your father and mother?

Top. Never had none, ye know. I telled ye that, Miss Eva.

Eva. O, I know; but had n't you any brother or sister, or aunt, or —

Top. No, none on 'em; never had nothing nor nobody.

Eva. But, Topsy, if you'd only try to be good, you might —

Top. Could n't never be nothin' but a nigger if I was ever so good. If I could be skinned, and come white, I'd try then.

Eva. But people can love you, if you are black, Topsy. Miss Ophelia would love you if you were good.

Top. [*Laughs.*]

Eva. Don't you think so?

Top. No; she can't bar me, 'cause I'm a nigger! she'd's soon have a toad touch her. There can't nobody love niggers, and niggers can't do nothin'. I don't care! [*Whistles.*]

Eva. O, Topsy, poor child, I love you! I love you, because you have n't had any father, or mother, or friends; because you've been a poor, abused child! I love you, and I want you to be good. I am very unwell, Topsy, and I think I shan't live a great while, and it really grieves me to have you be so naughty. I wish you would try to be good, for my sake; it's only a little while I shall be with you.

Top. [*Weeps.*]

Eva. Poor Topsy! don't you know that Jesus loves all alike? He is just as willing to love you as me. He loves you just as I do, only more, because he is better. He will help you to be good, and you can go to heaven at last, and be an angel forever, just as much as if you were white. Only think of it, Topsy, *you* can be one of those spirits bright Uncle Tom sings about!

Top. O, dear Miss Eva! dear Miss Eva! I will try! I will try! I never did care nothin' about it before. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE XI.—EVA'S Chamber. EVA lying in bed. MISS OPHELIA looks out of the door, and sees UNCLE TOM lying.

Ophelia. Uncle Tom, what alive! have you taken to sleeping everywhere, and anywhere, like a dog? I thought you were one of the orderly sort, and liked to sleep in your bed, in a decent way.

Uncle Tom. I do, Miss Feely; but now — [*Pauses.*]

Oph. Well, what now?

Uncle T. We mus n't speak loud; Mas'r St. Clare won't hear on't; but, Miss Feely, you know there must be somebody watchin' for the Bridegroom.

Oph. What do you mean, Tom?

Uncle T. You know it says in Scripture, "At midnight there was a great cry made, Behold, the Bridegroom cometh!" That's what I'm spectin' now, every night, Miss Feely; and I could n't sleep out o' hearin', no ways.

Oph. Why, Uncle Tom, what makes you think so?

Uncle T. Miss Eva, she talks to me. The Lord, he sends his messenger in the soul. I must be thar, Miss Feely; for when that ar blessed child goes into the kingdom, they'll open the door so wide, we'll all get a look in at the glory, Miss Feely.

Oph. Uncle Tom, did Miss Eva say she felt more unwell than usual to-night?

Uncle T. No; but she telled me this morning she was coming nearer; thar's them that tells it to the child, Miss Feely. It's the angels; "it's the trumpet-sound afore the break o' day."

Oph. Well, Tom, perhaps you had better lie down here by the door, so as to be ready if I should call you.

Uncle T. Yes, ma'am.

Oph. [*Closes the door and arranges the chamber. Takes the light and walks toward the bed, and examines the countenance of EVA.*] Ah! indeed! [*Sets down the lamp and feels of her pulse.*] Is it possible? [*Goes to the door.*] Tom!

Uncle T. [*Without.*] What, missis?

Oph. Go bring the doctor here, directly; don't lose a minute! [*Crosses the chamber and raps.*] Augustine! Augustine!

St. C. [*Opening.*] What, cousin? Anything the matter?

Oph. Just look at Eva! feel of her hands!

St. C. [*Bending over EVA.*] O, my God!

Enter MARIE.

Marie. Augustine — Cousin — What? Why?

St. C. Hush! she's dying!

SERVANTS flocking into the room.

Omnes. O, Miss Eva! O, Miss Eva!

St. C. Hush! Eva! Eva! O, if she would only speak once more! Eva! darling!

Oph. There! her eyes are opening!

St. C. Do you know me, Eva?

Eva. Dear papa! [*Throws her arms round his neck, then drops them and struggles, as in a spasm.*]

St. C. O, God! O, God! this is dreadful! [*Wrings Tom's hand.*]
O, Tom, my boy, it 's killing me!

Uncle T. Lord, have mercy!

St. C. O, pray that it may be over!

Uncle T. O, bless the Lord, it is over—there, look! look at her!

Oph. O, what a look!

Servants. [*All.*] O, those eyes! What does she see?

St. C. Eva!

Oph. She does n't hear you!

St. C. O, Eva! Tell us. What is it?

Eva. [*Gasping.*] O! [*Looks at her father.*] Love! [*Raises her hands.*] Joy! joy!

St. C. She 's gone! [*Falls on the bed. Curtain drops.*]

SCENE XII.—*A Parlor.* ST. CLARE, MISS OPHELIA. TOM on a bench near the window, reading.

Ophelia. Augustine, have you ever made any provision for your servants, in case of your death?

St. Clare. No!

Oph. Then all your indulgence to them may prove a great cruelty by and by.

St. C. Well, I mean to make a provision by and by.

Oph. When?

St. C. O, one of these days!

Oph. What if you should die first?

St. C. Cousin, what 's the matter? Do you think I show symptoms of yellow fever or cholera, that you are making post mortem arrangements with such zeal?

Oph. "In the midst of life we are in death!"

St. C. [*Laying aside the paper, and rising.*] DEATH! Strange that there should be such a word, and such a thing, and we ever forget it; that one should be living, warm and beautiful, full of hopes, desires, and wants, one day, and the next be gone, utterly gone, and forever! [*To Tom.*] Want me to read to you, Tom?

Uncle T. If mas'r pleases; mas'r makes it so much plainer.

St. C. [*Reads.*] "When the Son of Man shall come in his glory, and all his holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory; and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats." [*St. CLARE reads on, in an unanimated voice, till he comes to the last of the verses.*] "Then shall the King say unto them on his left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire: for I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: I was sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they answer unto him, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he say unto them, Inasmuch as ye

did it not to one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it not to me." [Pauses. To Tom.] Tom, these folks that get such hard measure seem to have been doing just what I have — living good, easy respectable lives; and not troubling themselves to inquire how many of their brethren were hungry, or athirst, or sick, or in prison. [Goes to the piano and plays and sings.]

“Dies iræ dies illa,
Solvat sæclum in favilla,
Teste David cum sybilla.”

[Speaks.] What a sublime conception is that of the last judgment! A righting of all the wrongs of ages! A solving of all moral problems by an unanswerable wisdom! It is, indeed, a wonderful image.

Oph. It is a fearful one to us.

St. C. It ought to be to me, I suppose. Now, that which I was reading to Tom strikes me singularly. One should have expected some terrible enormities charged to those who are excluded from heaven, as the reason; but, no,—they are condemned for *not* doing positive good, as if that included every possible harm.

Oph. Perhaps it is impossible for a person who does no good not to do harm.

St. C. And what, what shall be said of one whose own heart, whose education, and the wants of society, have called in vain to some noble purpose; who has floated on, a dreamy, neutral spectator of the struggles, agonies, and wrongs of man, when he should have been a worker?

Oph. I should say that he ought to repent, and begin now.

St. C. Always practical and to the point! You never leave me any time for general reflections, cousin; you always bring me short up against the actual present; you have a kind of eternal *now*, always in your mind.

Oph. *Now* is all the time I have anything to do with.

St. C. Dear little Eva — poor child! she had set her little simple soul on a good work for me. [A pause.] I don't know what makes me think of my mother so much to-night. I have a strange kind of feeling, as if she were near me. I keep thinking of things she used to say. Strange what brings these past things so vividly back to us, sometimes! [Walks.] I believe I'll go down street, a few moments, and hear the news to-night. [Exit.]

SCENE XIII. — *A Court-Yard.* SERVANTS running distractedly to and fro; some looking in at the windows where lights are seen moving.

Uncle Tom. [Comes out.] He's gone!

Voices. O, mas'r! O! O! O, Lord! Good Lord! Do hab pity! O Lord, hab mercy! O, Mas'r St. Clare! O, mas'r, mas'r, mas'r! he's dead! he's dead! he's dead!

ACT III.

SCENE I. — *Cassy is discovered sitting at a table covered with letters and papers, looking at a miniature.*

Cassy. I'm tired! I'm sick! I'm dead! Dead? yes, dead at heart! dead at the root, and yet I live; so they say at least. O, to think of it! to *think* of it! Why *don't* I die? [*She rises and paces the room, and sings.*]

“Una beldad existe que mis ajos
Sempre la ven con majico delicia;
De dia sabe disipar enojos,
De noche ensuenos dulces inspirar.

Hay un labio que el mio ha,
Y que untes otro labio no comprimida,
Turo hacemos felez oj emanecido,
Mi labio lo comprime y otro no.

Hay un seno todo el es propio mio,
Do mi cabeza enferma reclino,
Und bosa que nie si yo nio,
Ojos que lloron cuando lloro nō.”*

Ah! that was his song! O, dear, why can't I ever forget it! My children too! O, Henry! O, Eliza! [*She sits down, and covers her face. A carriage heard approaching, she rises quickly.*] What! back already! [*Looks out the window.*] There! another fly in the spider web! Handsome? O, yes! and white? Yes; some mother's darling. Hah! could n't I kill him?

Leyree. [*Opens the door, and pushes EMMELINE in.*] This way, little mistress!

Cas. You wretch! another!

Leg. Shut your mouth!

Cas. I shall shut my mouth; but your time is coming. I see it! I see it! Go on, go on! go as fast as you can! I see where it will end!

Leg. Hush, Cassy! be quiet; I mean no harm. You may take this girl up stairs. Come, be peaceable!

* This is a form on which these eyes
Have often gazed with fond delight;
By day that form their joy supplies,
And dreams restore it through the night.

This is a lip which mine has pressed,
As none had ever pressed before;
It vowed to make me sweetly blessed;
But I shall never press it more.

This was a bosom all my own,
That oft sustained my aching head;
A mouth which smiled on me alone,
An eye whose tears with mine were shed.

Cas. [To EMMELINE.] You have come to the gates of Hell ! Come with me. I'll show you the way. [*Exit, drawing EMMELINE after her.*]

Leg. [Solus.] The creature scares me lately ! Her eyes look so dreadful ! I'll sell her, or get rid of her some way. Hang it, there's no joke in it !

SCENE II. — *Evening. Negro Quarters. Negroes in ragged clothes. UNCLE TOM, MULATTO WOMAN, and SAMBO. QUIMBO, UNCLE TOM, and SAMBO, walk along and look into houses.*

Uncle Tom. Which of these is mine ?

Sambo. Dunno. Turn in here, I 'spose ; 'spect der's room for another dar. Right smart heap o' niggers to each on 'em. Sure I dunno what else to do with more. [*To the mulatto woman, throwing down a bag of corn.*] Ho ! yer. What a cuss is yer name ?

Woman. Lucy.

Samb. Wall, Lucy, yer my woman now ; grind dis yer corn, and get my supper ready ; d'ye har ?

Lucy. I an't your woman, and I won't be ! you go 'long !

Samb. I'll kick yo, then !

Lucy. Ye may kiil me, if ye choose ; the sooner the better ! Wish't I was dead !

Quimbo. I say, Sambo, you go to spilin' the hands I'll tell mas'r o' you.

Samb. And I'll tell him ye won't let the women come to the mills, yo old nigger ! Yo jes keep to yo own row.

Quim. [*To UNCLE TOM, throwing down a bag.*] Thar, yo nigger, grab ! thar's yer corn ; ye won't git no more dis yer week.

Uncle T. [*To a woman at the mill.*] You're tired ; let me grind.

Woman. Deed, I is dat ! [*UNCLE TOM grinds.*]

Woman. Wall, ye ground our meal, we'll fix yer cake for ye ; 'spects ye an't much used to it : [*Goes in. UNCLE TOM sits down by the fire to read the Bible. Women return and put the cakes at the fire.*]

1st Woman. [*To UNCLE TOM.*] What's dat ar ?

Uncle T. The Bible.

1st Woman. Good Lor ! ha'n't seen none since I's in ole Kintuck !

Uncle T. Was ye rais'd in Kintuck ?

1st Woman. Yes, and well raised too. Never expected to come to dis yer.

2d Woman. [*Coming up.*] What dat ar, anyway ?

1st Woman. Why, dat ar 's the Bible.

2d Woman. Good Lor ! what's dat ?

1st Woman. Do tell ! you never hearn of it ? I used to har missis a readin' on't sometimes, in Kintuck ; but, laws o' me ! we don't har nothin' here but crackin' and swarin'.

2d Woman. Read a piece, anyways !

Uncle T. [*Reads.*] "Come unto ME, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

2d Woman. Them's good words enough ; who says 'em ?

Uncle T. The Lord.

2d Woman. I jest wish I know'd whar to find Him; I would go. 'Pears like I never should get rested again. My flesh is fairly sore, and I tremble all over, every day, and Sambo's allers a jawin' a me, 'cause I does n't pick faster; and nights it's most midnight 'fore I can get my supper; and then 'pears like I don't turn over and shut my eyes 'fore I hear de horn blow to get up and at it again in the mornin'. If I know'd whar de Lord was I'd tell Him.

Uncle T. He's here; he's everywhere!

2d Woman. Lor! you an't gwine to make me believe dat ar! I know de Lord an't here; 't an't no use talking, though. I's jest gwine to camp down, and sleep while I ken. [*Exeunt women.*]

Uncle T. [*Solus.*] O Lord God! Where art thou? Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour! [*Lies down to sleep.*]

Music and Voice in the air. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and the rivers they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee; for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour.

SCENE III. — *The Cotton-House and Scales.* . LEGREE, QUIMBO and SAMBO.

Sambo. Dat ar Tom's gwine to make a powerful deal o' trouble; kept a puttin' into Lucy's basket. One o' these yer dat will get all der niggers to feelin' 'bused, if mas'r don't watch him!

Legree. Hey-day! The black cuss! He'll have to get a breakin' in, won't he, boys?

Quimbo. Ay, ay! let Mas'r Legree alone for breakin' in! De debil heself could n't beat mas'r at dat!

Leg. Wal, boys, the best way is to give him the flogging to do, till he gets over his notions. Break him in!

Sambo. Lord, mas'r 'll have hard work to get dat out o' him!

Leg. It 'll have to come out of him, though!

Sambo. Now, dar's Lucy; de aggravatinest, ugliest wench on de place!

Leg. Take care, Sam! I shall begin to think what's the reason for your spite agin Lucy.

Sambo. Well, mas'r knows she sot herself up agin mas'r, and would n't have me when he telled her to.

Leg. I'd a flogged her into 't, only there's such a press of work it don't seem wuth a while to upset her jist now. She's slender; but these yer slender gals will bear half killin' to get their own way!

Sambo. Wal, Lucy was real aggravatin' and lazy, sulkin' round; would n't do nothin'— and Tom he tuck up for her.

Leg. He did, eh! Wal, then, Tom shall have the pleasure of flogging her. It 'll be a good practice for him, and he won't put it on to the gal like you devils, neither.

Sambo and Quim. Ho, ho! haw! haw! haw!

Sambo. Wal, but, mas'r, Tom and Misse Cassy, and dey among 'em, filled Lucy's basket. I ruther guess der weight's in it, mas'r!

Leg. I do the weighing! So Misse Cassy did her day's work.

Samb. She picks like de debil and all his angels !

Leg. She 's got 'em all in her, I believe ! O, here they come !

Enter UNCLE TOM, and women with baskets.

Legree. Come, on here ! [*Weighs* TOM's basket.] Soh ! Ah ! Well for you ! [*TOM places* LUCY's basket on the scales.] What, ye lazy beast ! short again ? Get away — ye 'll catch it pretty soon !

Lucy. [*Groans.*] O Lor ! O Lor ! [*Sits.*]

Cassy. [*Brings her basket to the scales.*]

Leg. Well, my beauty ! How d' ye like it ?

Cas. Beaucoup mieux que de vivre avec une bête telle comme vous. [*Exit.*]

Leg. And now, come here, you Tom ! You see, I telled ye I did n't buy ye jest for the common work ; I mean to promote ye, and make a driver of ye ; and to-night ye may jest as well begin to get yer hand in. Now, ye jest take this yer gal and flog her. Ye 've seen enough on 't to know how.

Uncle T. I beg mas'r's pardon ; hopes mas'r won't set me at that. It 's what I an't used to ; never did ; and can't do, no way possible.

Leg. Ye 'll larn a pretty smart chance of things ye never did know, before I 've done with ye ? [*Thrashes* TOM with cowhide.] There, now ! will ye tell me ye can't do it ?

Uncle T. Yes, mas'r ! I 'm willin' to work, night and day, and work while there 's life and breath in me ; but this yer thing I can't feel it right to do ; and, mas'r, I never shall do it — never !

Lucy. O Lord !

Slaves. O ! O !

Leg. [*Foaming.*] What ! ye blasted black beast ! tell me ye don't think it right to do what I tell ye ! What have any of you cussed cattle to do with thinking what 's right ? I 'll put a stop to it ! Why, what do ye think ye are ? May be ye think ye 'r a gentleman, master Tom, to be a telling your master what 's right, and what an't ! So you pretend it 's wrong to flog the gal ?

Uncle T. I think so, mas'r ; the poor crittur 's sick and feeble ; 't would be downright cruel, and it 's what I never will do, nor begin to.

Leg. Well, here 's a pious dog, at last set down among us sinners ! a saint, a gentleman, and no less, to talk to us sinners about our sins ; powerful holy critter he must be ! Here, you rascal ! you make believe to be so pious — did n't you never hear ; out of your Bible, " Servants, obey your masters " ? An't I your master ? Did n't I pay down twelve hundred dollars, cash, for all there is inside yer old cussed black shell ? An't yer mine, now, body and soul ? Tell me !

Uncle T. No, no, no ! my soul an't yours, mas'r ! You have n't bought it — you can't buy it ! It has been bought and paid for by One that 's able to keep it. No matter, no matter, you can't harm me !

Leg. I can't ! we 'll see ! we 'll see ! Here Sambo ! Quimbo ! give this dog such a breakin' in as he won't get over this month !

SCENE IV. — *An old Gin-house Garret.* UNCLE TOM *lying on the floor.*

Uncle Tom. O, good Lord, do look down! Give me the vict'ry! give me the vict'ry!

Enter CASSY, with lantern.

Uncle T. Who's there? O, for mercy's sake, give me some water!

Cassy. Drink all you want. I knew how 't would be! 'T an't the first time I been out o' night carrying water to such as you.

Uncle T. Thank ye, missis!

Cas. Don't call me missis! I'm a miserable slave like you. A lower one than you can ever be! But let me see if I can't make you more comfortable. [*Places a pillow under his head.*] There, my poor fellow, there! that's the best I can do for you!

Uncle T. Thank you, missis!

Cas. [*Sitting.*] It's no use, my poor fellow; it's of no use, this you've been trying to do. You were a brave fellow; you had the right on your side; but it's all in vain, and out of the question, for you to struggle. You are in the devil's hands; he is the strongest, and you must give up.

Uncle T. O, Lord! O, Lord! how can I give up?

Cas. There's no use calling on the Lord; he never hears! There is n't any God, I believe; or, if there is, he's taken sides against us. All goes against us, heaven and earth. Everything is pushing us into hell. Why should n't we go? You see, *you* don't know anything about it; I do. I've been on this place five years, body and soul, under this man's foot, and I hate him as I do the devil! Here you are, on a lone plantation, ten miles from any other, in the swamps; not a white person here who could testify if you were burned alive; if you were scalded, cut into inch-pieces, set up for the dogs to tear, or hung up and whipped to death. There's no law here, of God or man, that can do you, or any one of us, the least good; and this man! there's no earthly thing that he's too good to do. I could make any one's hair rise, and their teeth chatter, if I should only tell what I've seen and been knowing to here; and it's no use resisting! Did I *want* to live with him? Was n't I a woman delicately bred? And he! God in heaven! what was he, and is he? And yet I've lived with him these five years, and cursed every moment of my life, night and day! And now he's got a new one; a young thing, only fifteen; and she brought up, she says, piously! Her good mistress taught her to read the Bible, and she's brought her Bible here, to hell, with her!

Uncle T. O, Jesus! Lord Jesus! have you quite forgot us poor critturs? Help, Lord, I perish!

Cas. And what are these miserable low dogs you work with, that you should suffer on their account? Every one of them would turn against you the first time they got a chance. They are all of 'em as low and cruel to each other as they can be; and there's no use in your suffering to keep from hurting them.

Uncle T. Poor critturs! what made 'em cruel? And if I give out, I shall get used to 't, and grow, little by little, just like 'em! No, no, missis! I've lost everything; wife, and children, and home, and a kind mas'r; and he would have set me free, if he 'd only lived a week longer. I've lost everything in *this* world, and it's clean gone forever; and now I *can't* lose heaven, too; no, I can't get to be wicked, besides all!

Cas. But it can't be that the Lord will lay sin to our account; he won't charge it to us, when we're forced to it; he'll charge it to them that drove us to it.

Uncle T. Yes; but that won't keep us from growing wicked. If I get to be as hard-hearted as that ar' Sambo, and as wicked, it won't make much odds to me how I came so; it's the *bein' so*; that ar's what I'm a dreadin'.

Cas. O, God a' mercy! you speak the truth! O! O! O!

Uncle T. Please, missis, I saw 'em throw my coat in that ar' corner. In the pocket is my Bible; if missis would please get it for me. [*Cassy brings it.*] There's a place marked here, if missis'll please to read it. I want to hear it.

Cas. [*Reads.*] "And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them, they know not what they do!" [*She throws down the book violently, and buries her face in her hands.*]

Uncle T. [*Sobbing.*] If we only could keep up to that ar'! it seemed to come so natural to him, and we have to fight so hard for 't! O, Lord, help us! O, blessed Lord Jcsus, do help us! Missis, I can see that somehow you're quite 'bove me in everything; but there's one thing missis might learn, even from poor Tom. Ye said the Lord took sides against us, because he lets us be 'bused and knocked round; but ye see what come on his own Son — the blessed Lord of Glory! Wa'n't he al'ays poor? and have we, any on us, yet come so low as he come? The Lord ha'n't forgot us; I'm sartin o' that ar'. If we suffer with him, we shall also reign, Scripture says; but if we deny him, he also will deny us. Did n't they all suffer; the Lord and all his? It tells how they were stoned and sawn asunder, and wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, and was destitute, afflicted, tormented. Sufferin' an't no reason to make us think the Lord's turned agin us, but jest the contrary, if we only hold on to him, and does n't give up to sin.

Cas. But why does he put us where we can't help but sin?

Uncle T. I think we *can* help it.

Cas. You'll see! What'll you do? To-morrow they'll be at you again! I know 'em, I have seen all their doings; I can't bear to think of all they'll bring you to; and they'll make you give out at last!

Uncle T. Lord Jesus! you *will* take care of my soul! O, Lord, do! don't let me give out!

Cas. O, dear! I've heard all this crying and praying before; and yet they've been broken down and brought under. There's Emmeline, she's trying to hold on, and you're trying; but what use? You must give up, or be killed by inches!

Uncle T. Well, then, I *will* die! Spin it out as long as they can, they can't help my dying some time! and, after that, they can't do no more. I'm clar! I'm set! I *know* the Lord 'll help me, and bring me through.

Cas. Maybe it 's the way; but those that *have* given up, there 's no hope for them — none! We live in filth and grow loathsome, till we loathe ourselves! And we long to die, and we don't dare to kill ourselves. No hope! no hope! no hope! This girl now, just as old as I was.

You see me now; see what I am! Well, I was brought up in luxury; the first I remember is, the playing about, when I was a child, in splendid parlors; kept dressed up like a doll; company and visitors praising me. There was a garden opening from the saloon windows; and there I used to play hide-and-go-seek, under the orange-trees, with my brothers and sisters.

I went to a convent, and there I learned music, French, and embroidery, and what not. When I was fourteen, I came out to my father's funeral. He died very suddenly, and when the property came to be settled, they found that there was scarcely enough to cover the debts; and when the creditors took an inventory of the property, I was set down in it. My mother was a slave-woman, and my father had always meant to set me free; but he had not done it, and so I was set down in the list. I'd always known who I was, but never thought much about it. Nobody ever expects that a strong, healthy man is a going to die. My father was a well man only four hours before he died; it was one of the first cholera cases in New Orleans.

The day after the funeral, my father's wife took her children and went up to her father's plantation. I thought they treated me strangely, but did n't know why. There was a young lawyer whom they left to settle the business; and he came every day, and was about the house, and spoke very politely to me. He brought with him, one day, a young man, the handsomest I had ever seen. I shall never forget that evening. I walked with him in the garden. I was lonesome and full of sorrow, and he was so kind and gentle to me; and he told me that he had seen me before I went to the convent, and that he had loved me a great while, and that he would be my friend and protector; in short, though he did n't tell me, he had paid two thousand dollars for me, and I was his property. I became his willingly, for I *loved* him.

Loved! — O, how I *did* love that man! How I love him now, and always shall, while I breathe! He was so beautiful, so high, so noble! Everything that money could buy, he gave me; but I did n't set any value on all that; I only cared for him. I loved him better than my God and my own soul; and, if I tried, I could n't do any other way from what he wanted me to.

I wanted only one thing — I did want him to *marry* me. I thought if he loved me, as he said he did, and if I was what he seemed to think I was, he would be willing to marry me and set me free. But he convinced me that it would be impossible; and he told me that, if we were only faithful to each other, it was marriage before God. If that is true, was n't I that man's wife? Was n't I faithful? For seven years, did n't I study every look and motion, and only live and breathe to please him? He had the yellow fever, and for twenty days and

nights I watched with him, I alone; and gave him all his medicine, and did everything for him; and then he called me his good angel, and said I'd saved his life.

We had two beautiful children. The first was a boy, and we called him Henry. He was the image of his father. He had such beautiful eyes, such a forehead, and his hair hung all in curls around it! And he had all his father's spirit, and his talent too. Little Elise, he said, looked like me. He used to tell me that I was the most beautiful woman in Louisiana, he was so proud of me and the children. O, those were happy days! I thought I was as happy as any one could be; but then there came evil times. He had a cousin come to New Orleans who was his particular friend; he thought all the world of him; but from the first time I saw him, I could n't tell why, I dreaded him, for I felt sure he was going to bring misery on us. He got Henry to going out with him, and often he would not come home nights till two or three o'clock. I did not dare say a word; for Henry was so high-spirited I was afraid to. He got him to the gaming-houses; and he was one of the sort that, when he once got agoing there, there was no holding back. And then he introduced him to another lady, and I saw soon that his heart was gone from me. He never told me, but I saw it; I knew it day after day. I felt my heart breaking, but I could not say a word. Would you believe it? at last the wretch offered to buy me and the children of Henry, to clear off his gambling debts, which stood in the way of his marrying as he wished!— and *he sold us!* He told me one day that he had business in the country, and should be gone two or three weeks. He spoke kinder than usual, and said he should come back; but *it did n't deceive me*; I knew that the time had come; I was just like one turned into stone; I could n't speak nor shed a tear. He kissed me and kissed the children a good many times, and went out. I saw him get on his horse, and I watched him till he was quite out of sight; and then I fell down and fainted.

Then *he* came, the cursed wretch! he came to take possession. He told me that he had bought me and my children, and showed me the papers. I cursed him before God, and told him I'd die sooner than live with him.

"Just as you please," said he; "but if you don't behave reasonably I'll sell both the children, where you shall never see them again." He told me that he always had meant to have me, from the first time he saw me; and that he had drawn Henry on, and got him in debt, on purpose to make him willing to sell me. That he got him in love with another woman; and that I might know, after all that, that he should not give up for a few airs and tears, and things of that sort.

I gave up, for my hands were tied. He had my children; whenever I resisted his will anywhere, he would talk about selling them, and he made me as submissive as he desired. O, what a life it was! To live with my heart breaking every day,— to keep on, on, on, loving, when it was only misery; and to be bound, body and soul, to one I hated! Yet I was afraid to refuse him anything. He was very hard to the children. Elise was a timid little thing; but Henry was bold and high-spirited like his father,— he had always been so indulged. He was always scolding him, and I used to live in daily

fear. I tried to make the child respectful. I tried to keep them apart. No use — none ! He sold both those children. One day, when I came home from riding, I looked all over the house, and called, — and they were gone ! He told me he had sold them ; he showed me the money, — the price of their blood ! Then it seemed as if all good had forsaken me. I raved and cursed, — cursed God and man ; and, for a while, I believe he really was afraid of me. But he did n't give up so. He told me that my children were sold, but whether I ever saw their faces again depended on him ; and that, if I was n't quiet, they should smart for it. Well, you can do anything with a woman when you've got her children ! He *made* me submit ; he *made* me peaceable ; he flattered me with hopes that, perhaps, he would buy them back ; and so things went on a week or two. One day, I was out walking, and passed by the calaboose ; I saw a crowd about the gate, and heard a child's voice ; and, suddenly, my Henry broke away from two or three men, who were holding him, and ran, screaming, and caught my dress. They came up to him, swearing dreadfully. O, there was one man ! — I shall never forget that man's face ! He told him that he would n't get away so ; that he had got to go in with him and get a lesson he'd never forget. The poor child screamed, and looked in my face, and held on to me so that, when they tore him off, they tore the skirt of my dress half away ; and they carried him in screaming "Mother ! mother ! mother ! mother !" I turned and ran ; every step I heard him scream. I got to the house, all out of breath, into the parlor, and found Butler. I told him, and begged him to go and interfere. He only laughed, and told me the boy had got his deserts. He'd got to be broken in ; the sooner the better. What did I expect ? he asked. — Look here ! Do you know something in my head *snapped* then ? — *snapped*, you know ! It's never come right since. I saw a great knife — I caught it — and then all grew dark, and I did n't know any more not for days and days.

When I came to myself I was in a nice room, but not mine. An old black woman tended me, and a doctor came to see me ; and there was a great deal of care taken of me. After a while, I found that he had gone away, and left me at this house to be sold ; and that's why they took such pains with me.

I did n't mean to get well, and hoped I should n't ; but, in spite of me, the fever went off, and I grew healthy, and finally got up. Then they made me dress up, every day ; and gentlemen used to come in and stand and smoke their cigars, and look at me, and ask questions, and debate my price. I was so gloomy and silent, that none of them wanted me. They threatened to whip me if I was n't gayer, and did n't take some pains to make myself agreeable. At length, one day, came a gentleman named Stuart. He seemed to have some feeling for me ; he saw that something dreadful was on my heart, and he came to see me alone a great many times, and finally persuaded me to tell him. He bought me, at last, and promised to do all he could to find and buy back my children. He went to the hotel where my Henry was ; they told him he had been sold to a planter up on Pearl river ; that was the last that I ever heard of him. Then he found where my daughter was ; an old woman was keeping her. He offered an immense sum for her,

but they would not sell her. Butler found out that it was for me he wanted her, and he sent me word that I should never have her.

Captain Stuart was very kind to me ; he had a splendid plantation, and took me to it. In the course of a year I had a son born. O, that child ! how I loved it ! How just like my poor Henry the little thing looked ! But I had made up my mind — yes, I had — I would never again let a child live to grow up ! So, when he was two weeks old, I took the little fellow in my arms, and I gave him laudanum. It did n't hurt him ; it made him so quiet, and I held him close — close to my bosom, and he slept to death ! And I 'm not sorry now ! That 's one of the few things I 'm glad of. Yes, yes ; he 's safe ! They 'll never sell *him* — they 'll never whip *him* ! No, no ; nothing can hurt *him* ! Ah ! death is the best thing we can give our children. After a while the cholera came, and Captain Stuart died ; everybody died that wanted to live, and I — I, though I went down to death's door — *I lived* ! Then I was sold, and passed from hand to hand, till I grew faded and wrinkled, and I had a fever ; and then this wretch bought me, and brought me here — and here I am ! [*Cassy rises and walks about — stops suddenly.*]

You tell me there 's a God, — a God that looks down and sees all these things. May be it 's so. The sisters used to tell me of a day of judgment when everything is coming to light. *Won't* there be vengeance then !

They think it 's nothing what we suffer — nothing what our children suffer ! It 's all a small matter ; yet I 've walked the streets when it seemed as if I had misery enough in my one heart to sink the city ! I 've wished the houses would fall on me, or the stones sink under me. Yes ! and in the judgment-day I will stand up before God, a witness against those that have ruined me and my children, body and soul !

When I was a girl I thought I was religious ; I used to love God and prayer. Now I 'm a lost soul, pursued by devils that torment me day and night. They keep pushing me on and on — and I 'll do it, too, some of these days ! I 'll send him where he belongs — a short way, too — one of these nights, if they burn me alive for it ! [*Sobs and struggles.*] Can I do anything more for you, my poor fellow ? Shall I give you some more water ?

Uncle T. O, missis, I wish you would go to Him that can give living waters !

Cas. Go to Him ! Where is he ? Who is he ?

Uncle T. Him you read of, the Lord Jesus !

Cas. I used to see the picture of him over the altar ; but he is n't here. No ; he is n't here ! There 's nothing here but sin — and long — long — long despair ! Don't talk, poor fellow ! it 's no use. Try to make yourself comfortable, and sleep if you can. [*Exit Cassy.*]

SCENE V. — *Sitting-Room.*

Legree. [*Drinking.*] Plague on that Sambo, to kick up this yer row between me and the new hands ! The fellow won't be fit to work for a week now, — right in the press of the season.

Cassy. Yes ; just like you.

Leg. Hah! you she-devil! you 've come back, have you?

Cas. Yes, I have; come to have my own way, too!

Leg. You lie, you jade! I'll be up to my word. Either behave yourself, or stay down to the quarters, and fare and work with the rest.

Cas. I'd rather, ten thousand times, live in the dirtiest hole at the quarters, than be under your hoof!

Leg. But you *are* under my hoof, for all that; that's one comfort. So, sit down here on my knee, my dear, and hear to reason.

Cas. Simon Legree, take care! You're afraid of me, Simon; and you've reason to be! But be careful, for I've got the devil in me!

Leg. Get out! I believe to my soul you have! After all, Cassy, why can't you be friends with me as you used to?

Cas. Used to!

Leg. Come, Cassy, I wish you'd behave yourself decently.

Cas. You talk about behaving decently! And what have you been doing? You, who have n't even sense enough to keep from spoiling one of your best hands, right in the most pressing season, just for your devilish temper!

Leg. I was a fool, it's a fact, to let any such brangle come up; but when the boy set up his will, he had to be broke in.

Cas. I reckon you won't break *him* in!

Leg. Won't I? I'd like to know if I won't! He'll be the first nigger that ever came it round me! I'll break every bone in his body but he *shall* give up!

Cas. No, he won't!

Leg. I'd like to know *why*, mistress.

Cas. Because he's done right, and he knows it, and won't say he's doing wrong.

Leg. Who a cuss cares what he knows? The nigger shall say what I please, or ———

Cas. Or you'll lose your bet on the cotton crop by keeping him out of the field just at this very press.

Leg. But he *will* give up; of course he will. Don't I know what niggers is? He'll beg like a dog this morning.

Cas. He won't, Simon; you don't know this kind. You may kill him by inches, you won't get the first word of confession out him.

Leg. We'll see. Where is he?

Cas. In the waste-room of the gin-house. [Exit LEGREE.]

Cas. [Solus.] Would it be a sin to kill such a wretch as that?

Enter EMMELINE.

Emmeline. O, Cassy! is it you? I'm so glad you've come! I was afraid it was — O, you don't know what a horrid noise there has been, down stairs, all this evening!

Cassy. I ought to know; I've heard it often enough.

Em. O, Cassy! Do tell me, — could n't we get away from this place? I don't care where, — into the swamp among the snakes, — anywhere! Could n't we get *somewhere* away from here?

Cas. Nowhere but into our graves!

Em. Did you ever try?

Cas. I've seen enough of trying, and what comes of it?

Em. I'd be willing to live in the swamps, and gnaw the bark from trees. I an't afraid of snakes! I'd rather have one near me than him.

Cas. There have been a good many here of your opinion; but you could n't stay in the swamps. You'd be tracked by the dogs, and brought back, and then — then —

Em. What would he do?

Cas. What would n't he do, you'd better ask! He's learned his trade well among the pirates in the West Indies. You would n't sleep much, if I should tell you things I've seen, — things that he tells of, sometimes, for good jokes. I've heard screams here that I have n't been able to get out of my head for weeks and weeks. There's a place way out down by the quarters, where you can see a black, blasted tree, and the ground all covered with black ashes. Ask any one what was done there, and see if they will dare to tell you.

Em. O, what do you mean?

Cas. I won't tell you. I hate to think of it. And, I tell you, the Lord only knows what we may see to-morrow, if that poor fellow holds out as he's begun!

Em. Horrid! O, Cassy, do tell me what I shall do!

Cas. What I've done. Do the best you can — do what you must, and make it up in hating and cursing!

Em. He wanted to make me drink some of his hateful brandy; and I hate it so —

Cas. You'd better drink. I hated it too; and now I can't live without it. One must have something — things don't look so dreadful when you take that.

Em. Mother used to tell me never to touch any such thing.

Cas. *Mother* told you! What use is it for mothers to say anything? You are all to be bought and paid for, and your souls belong to whoever gets you. That's the way it goes. I say, *drink* brandy; drink all you can, and it'll make things come easier!

Em. O, Cassy! do pity me!

Cas. Pity you! — don't I? Have n't I a daughter? — Lord knows where she is, and whose she is now, — going the way her mother went before her, I suppose, and that her children must go after her! There's no end to the curse — forever!

Em. I wish I'd never been born!

Cas. That's an old wish with me. I've got used to wishing that. I'd die if I dared to!

Em. It would be wicked to kill one's self.

Cas. I don't know why; — no wickeder than things we live and do day after day. But the sisters told me things, when I was in the convent, that make me afraid to die. If it would only be the end of us, why then —

Legree. [*Calling.*] Cassy! — I say! — Emmeline!

Cas. There he is! — What now? [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VI.— *Moonlight.* UNCLE TOM — *Solus.* [*Sings.*]

“Way down upon the Swanee river,
Far, far away,
Dere's whar my heart is turning, ever,

Dere's whar the old folks stay.
 All the world am sad and dreary,
 Everywhere I roam;
 O, Chloe, how my heart grows weary,
 Thinkin' of ye all at home!"

[*A pause. Looks up. His face brightens. Sings.*]

"When I can read my title clear
 To mansions in the skies,
 I bid farewell to every fear,
 And wipe my weeping eyes.

Should earth against my soul engage,
 And hellish darts be hurled,
 Then I can smile at Satan's rage,
 And face a frowning world."

[*Enter LEGREE, unperceived.*]

"Let cares like a wild deluge come,
 And storms of sorrow fall,
 May I but safely reach my home,
 My God, my heaven, my all!"

Leg. [*Aside.*] So, ho! he thinks so, does he! How I hate these cursed Methodist hymns! [*To TOM, aloud.*] Here, you nigger! how dare you be gettin' up this yer row, when you ought to be in bed? Shut yer old black gash, and get along in with you!

Uncle T. Yes, Mas'r.

Leg. [*Beating him.*] There, you dog! see if you feel so comfortable after that! [*Exit TOM.*]

SCENE VII. — *Night. Before UNCLE TOM'S Cottage.*

Enter CASSY. She raps. UNCLE TOM opens the door.

Cassy. Come here, father Tom! come here; I've news for you!

Uncle Tom. What, Misse Cassy?

Cas. Tom, would n't you like your liberty?

Uncle T. I shall have it, misse, in God's time.

Cas. Ay, but you may have it to-night! Come on!

[*UNCLE TOM holds back.*]

Cas. Come! Come along! He's asleep — sound. I put enough into his brandy to keep him so. I wish I'd had more, I should n't have wanted you. But come, the back-door is unlocked: there is an axe there; I put it there — his room-door is open; I'll show you the way. I'd a done it myself, only my arms are so weak. Come along!

Uncle T. Not for ten thousand worlds, misse!

Cas. But think of all these poor creatures. We might set them all free, and go somewhere in the swamps, and find an island, and livé by ourselves; I've heard of its being done. Any life is better than this.

Uncle T. No, no! good never comes of wickedness. I'd sooner chop my right hand off!

Cas. Then I shall do it.

Uncle T. O, misse Cassy ! for the dear Lord's sake that died for ye, don't sell your precious soul to the devil, that way ! Nothing but evil will come of it. The Lord has n't called us to wrath. We must suffer, and wait his time.

Cas. Wait ! Have n't I waited ? — waited till my head is dizzy and my heart sick ? What has he made me suffer ! What has he made hundreds of poor creatures suffer ! Is n't he wringing the life-blood out of you ? I'm called on ! They call me ! His time's come, and I'll have his heart's blood !

Uncle T. No, no, no ! No, ye poor, lost soul, that ye must n't do ! The dear, blessed Lord never shed no blood but his own, and that he poured out for us when we was enemies. Lord, help us to follow his steps, and love our enemies !

Cas. Love ! love such enemies ! it is n't in flesh and blood.

Uncle T. No, misse, it is n't ; but *He* gives it to us, and that's the victory. When we can love and pray over all, and through all, the battle's past and the victory's come — glory be to God ! Misse Casse, if you only could get away from here — if the thing was possible — I'd 'vise ye and Emmeline to do it ; that is, if ye could go without blood-guiltiness — not otherwise.

Cas. Would you try it with us, father Tom ?

Uncle T. No ; time was when I would ; but the Lord's given me a work among these yer poor souls, and I'll stay with 'em, and bear my cross with 'em till the end. It's different with you ; it's a snare to you — it's more 'n you can stand, and you'd better go if you can.

Cas. I know no way but through the grave ! There's no beast or bird but can find a home somewhere ; even the snakes and the alligators have their places to lie down and be quiet ; but there's no place for us. Down in the darkest swamps the dogs will hunt us out, and find us. Everybody and everything is against us ; even the very beasts side against us, and where shall we go ?

Uncle T. He that saved Daniel in the den of lions — that saved the children in the fiery furnace — He that walked on the sea, and bade the winds be still — He's alive yet ; and I've faith to believe he can deliver you. Try it, and I will pray with all my might for you !

Cas. Father Tom, I'll try it ! [Exit CASSY, UNCLE TOM.]

SCENE VIII. — *A Room. Evening.*

CASSY and EMMELINE sorting and arranging baggage.

Cassy. These will be large enough ; now on with your bonnet, and let's start.

Emmeline. Why, they can see us yet.

Cas. I mean they shall. Don't you know they must have that chase after us, at any rate ? See here, now, their way will be just this : We steal out of the back door, and run down by the Court House. Sambo or Quimbo will be sure to see us. They will give chase, and we will get into the swamp. Then I can't go any further till they go up and turn out the dogs ; and while they are blundering round, and tumbling over each other, as they always do, you and I will just slip

along to a creek, and run into the water, till we get back to the house; that will put the dogs all at fault; for scent won't lie in the water. Every one will run out of the house to look after us, and then we'll whip into the back door, and then to the garret, where I have got a nice bed made up in one of the great boxes. We must stay there a good while; for, I tell you, he will raise heaven and earth after us. He boasts that no one ever got away from him. He'll muster all the old overseers on the other plantations, and have a great hunt, and they'll go over every inch of ground in that swamp. We'll let him hunt at his leisure.

Em. But won't he come to the garret?

Cas. Not he, indeed! He is too much afraid of that place.

Em. Cassy, how well you have planned it! Who would ever have thought that of you?

Cas. [*Reaching her hand to EMMELINE.*] Come.

SCENE IX.—*A Wood.* EMMELINE and CASSY stealing cautiously through the trees.

Enter LEGREE at a distance. Perceives them.

Legree. Hallo! you, there!

Emmeline. [*Staggered and catches hold of CASSY's arm.*] O, Cassy, I am going to faint!

Cassy. [*Holding up a dagger.*] If you do, I'll kill you! [*She seizes EMMELINE under the arm and holds her up, as they disappear.*]

Legree. [*Coming in sight, and looking after them.*] Anyhow, they have got into a trap now, — the baggages! They are safe enough! They shall sweat for it! [*Turns and runs in another direction.*] Hallo! there, Sambo! Quimbo! — all hands! — two runaways in the swamp! — five dollars to any nigger that catches them! — turn out the dogs! — turn out Tiger! — Fury and fire! Hallo! be alive!

Enter SAMBO, QUIMBO, and a crowd of negroes with torches. They run about distractedly, and shouting and whooping, some getting pine knots and some getting the dogs.

Sambo. Mas'r, shall we shoot them? Can't catch 'em.

Legree. [*Giving him a rifle.*] Fire on Cass, if you like — time she is gone where she belongs! Don't fire on the girl! Now, be s'ry! Five dollars to him that gets them! Glass of spirits to you all, any way! [*Exit all, shouting.*]

Enter UNCLE TOM; looks after them and raises his hands.

Uncle Tom. Please, good Lord, do, do help 'em — help 'em — help 'em, good Lord!

SCENE X.—*A Room in the House.*

Enter CASSY and EMMELINE out of breath. From the windows is seen the light of flambeaux, and the sound of dogs and shouting is heard.

Cassy. [*Walking to the window and looking out.*] See there, the hunt is begun! Hark, the dogs! Don't you hear? If we were there now, our chance would n't be worth a picayune!

Emmeline. O, for pity's sake! Do let's hide ourselves! Quick! quick!

Cas. There is no occasion for hurry. The hunt is the amusement for the evening. They are all out after it. Meanwhile [*she walks to a desk and unlocks it*] I shall take something to pay our passage.

Em. O, don't let's do that!

Cas. [*Taking out a roll of bills and counting them.*] Why not? Would you have us starve in the swamp, or have what will pay our way to the free states? Money can do anything, girl!

Em. But it's stealing.

Cas. [*Laughs scornfully.*] Stealing, is it! They who steal body and soul need not talk to us! Let *him* talk about stealing! Every one of these bills is stolen — stolen from poor, starving, sweating creatures, that must go to the devil at last for his profit! But *come*, we may as well go up garret. I have got a stock of candles there, and some books to pass away the time. You may be sure they won't come there to inquire after us. [*Exit.*]

SCENE XI. — *The Dining-room.*

Legræ. [*Solus.*] It's all that Tom, I know! Did n't I see the old wretch lifting up his old black hands, praying? I *hate* him! I HATE him! And isn't he *mine*? Is he not MINE? Can't I do what I like with him? Who is to hinder, I wonder? I'll try once more to-morrow. If I don't catch them — I'll see what I'll do!

SCENE XII. — *A small Room under the eaves of the garret. A pallet spread upon the floor, strewn with books und bundles. A light burning on the side of the wall. CASSY kneeling, with her eye to a knot-hole.*

Emmeline. What do you see?

Cassy. At it again this morning! There's that old Stokes on the run. He has come over — has he? And Bill Daken, with his dogs! Hear them swear! There he goes, giving brandy round among them — niggers and all! [*Listens.*] So I am to be shot down — am I? "Save the girl!" Do you hear that, Emmeline? Is n't he kind? [*Cassy rises suddenly, clasps her hands, and looks up.*] Almighty God! what is this for? What have we done more than all the rest of the world, that we are treated so? [*After a pause, she lays her hand on ENMELINE'S shoulder.*] If it was n't for you, child, I *would* go out there, and I'd thank any one that *would* shoot me down; for what use will freedom be to me? Can it give me back my children, or make me what I used to be?

Em. Poor Cassy! don't feel so! [*She takes her hand.*]

Cas. [*Draws it away.*] Don't — you get me to loving you; and I never mean to love anything again.

Em. You should n't feel so, Cassy. If the Lord gives us liberty perhaps he will give you back your daughter. At any rate, I'll be like a daughter to you. I know I'll never see my poor old mother again. I shall love you, Cassy, whether you love me or not.

Cas. [*Sits down, and puts her arm round EMMELINE.*] O, Em, I have hungered for my children, and thirsted for them! My heart is broken in longing for them! Here, here all is desperate, all empty! If God would give me back my children, then I could pray.

Em. You must trust him, Cassy. He is our Father.

Cas. His wrath is upon us. He is turned away in anger.

Em. No, Cassy, he will be good to us.

SCENE XIII. — LEGREE and QUIMBO. *Sitting-room.*

Legree. Now, Quimbo, if you'll just walk up that Tom right away — the old cuss is at the bottom of the whole matter, and I'll have it out of his old black hide, or I'll know the reason why! [*Exit QUIMBO.*] What if I did pay a thousand dollars for him! — two thousand would not pay the plague he has made me! I've got him! the—

Enter QUIMBO, dragging along TOM.

Quimbo. Ah! you'll catch it now, I'll be bound! Mas'r's back's up high. No sneaking up now — tell you, you'll get it — no mistake! See how you look now, helping mas'r's niggers to run away — see what ye got!

A voice from above. "Fear not them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do."

Leg. [*Seizing TOM by the collar.*] Tom, do you know I have made up my mind to kill you?

Tom. I think it's quite likely, mas'r.

Leg. I have — done — just — that — thing, Tom, unless you'll tell me what you know about these here girls!

[*TOM remains silent, and looks on the floor.*]

Leg. [*Stamping.*] Do you hear? — speak!

Tom. I an't got nothing to tell, mas'r.

Leg. Do you dare to tell me, you old black Christian, that you don't know?

[*TOM remains silent.*]

Leg. [*Furiously.*] Speak! Do you know anything?

Tom. I know, mas'r, but I can't tell anything. *I can die.*

Leg. [*Comes up to TOM, and speaks close to his face.*] Look here, Tom! you think, because I have let you off other times, that I don't mean what I say. But I *do!* I have made up my mind and counted the cost. You always have stood it out against me; but this time I'll conquer you, or I'll kill you — one or t' other! I'll count every drop of blood that is in you, and take them one by one till you give up!

Tom. [*Looking up to his master.*] Mas'r, if you were sick, or in trouble, or dying, and I could save ye, I'd give ye my heart's blood; and, if taking every drop of blood in this poor old body would save your precious soul, I'd give 'em freely, as the Lord gave his for me. O! mas'r, don't bring this great sin on your soul! It will hurt you more than 't will me! Do the worst you can, my troubles will be over soon; but, if ye don't repent, yours won't never end!

[LEGREE *hesitates a moment, and then knocks TOM down. SAMBO and QUIMBO rush in.*]

Sambo and Quimbo. Shall we take him, mas'r ?

Leg. Yes, take him. I'll go with you. We'll see what we'll see !
[*Exit.*]

SCENE XIV. — *A Hut.* UNCLE TOM *lying on straw, apparently dead.*

Enter GEORGE SHELBY. Kneels down.

George. Is it possible ! Is it possible ! Uncle Tom, my poor old friend !

Uncle Tom. [*Moving in his sleep.*]

“ Jesus^s can make a dying bed
Feel soft as downy pillows are.”

George. O ! Uncle Tom, do wake ! do speak once more ! Look up ! Here 's Mas'r George — your own little Mas'r George ! Don't you know me ?

Uncle T. [*In a feeble voice.*] Mas'r George ! Mas'r George ! Bless the Lord ! it is — it is — it 's all I wanted ! They have n't forgot me ! It warms my soul ; it does my old heart good ! Now I shall die content ! Bless the Lord, O my soul !

George. You shan't die ! you *must n't* die, nor think of it ! I 've come to buy you, and take you home.

Uncle T. O, Mas'r George, ye 're too late ! The Lord 's bought me, and is going to take me home ; and I long to go. Heaven is better than Kintuck.

George. O, don't die ! It 'll kill me ! it 'll break my heart to think what you 've suffered — and lying in this old shed, here ! Poor, poor fellow !

Uncle T. Don't call me poor fellow ! [*Solemnly.*] *I have been poor fellow, but that 's all past and gone now. I 'm right in the door, going into glory ! O, Mas'r George ! Heaven has come ! I 've got the victory ! the Lord Jesus has given it to me ! Glory be to his name ! [He pauses, and then takes GEORGE'S hand.]* Ye *must n't*, now, tell Chloe — poor soul ! — how ye found me ; 't would be so drefful to her. Only tell her ye found me going into glory ; and that I could n't stay for no one. And tell her the Lord stood by me everywhere, and al'ays, and made everything light and easy. And, O ! the poor chill'en, and the baby — my old heart 's been most broken for 'em, time and again. Tell 'em all to follow me — follow me ! Give my love to mas'r, and dear good missis, and everybody in the place ! Ye don't know. 'Pears like I loves 'em all ! I loves every creatur', everywar ! — it 's nothing *but* love ! O, Mas'r George, what a thing 't is to be a Christian !

[LEGREE *looks in.*]

George. The old Satan ! It 's a comfort to think the devil will pay him for this some of these days !

Uncle T. O, don't ! — O, you *must n't* ! [*grasping his hand.*] He 's a poor mis'able critter. It 's awful to think on 't ! O, if he

only would repent, the Lord would forgive him now ; but I 'm feared he never will !

George. I hope he won't ! I never want to see *him* in heaven !

Uncle T. Hush, Mas'r George ; it worries me ! Don't feel so. He an't done me no real harm — only opened the gate of the kingdom for me — that's all ! [*A pause. UNCLE TOM seems to faint. Draws several long sighs, raises his hand.*] Who — who — who — shall — separate — us from — the — the — *love of Christ*? LOVE ! LOVE ! LOVE OF CHRIST !

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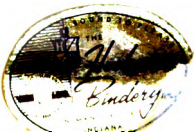
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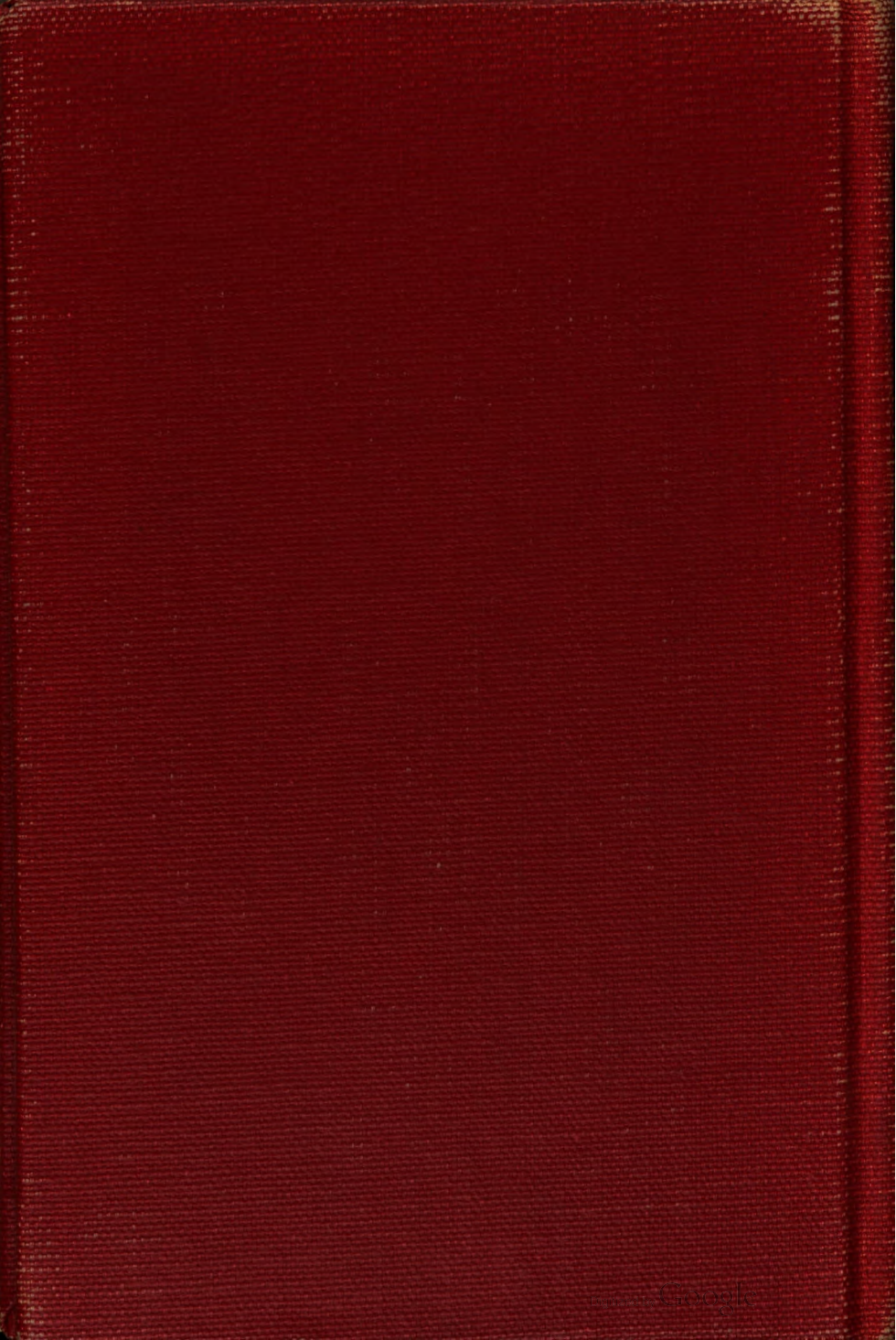


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