Diterature.



CHAPTER XXXIII. THE WANDERER.

shut out the dust, dropped the green cur- dust which it carried in its train. Fiercely the noontide blaze of a scorch ing July sun was falling upon the huge walls of the "Laurel Hill Sun," where a group of idlers were lounging on the long narrow piazza, some niching into still more grotesque carving the rude, unpainted railing, while others, half reclining on one elbow, shaded their eyes with their old slouched hats, as they gazed wistfully toward the long hill, eager to catch the first sight of the daily stage which was

were to die there alone, among strangers | bright sunlight. momentarily expected. "Jerry is late, to day-but it's so plaguy hot he's favorin' his hosses, I guess," said the rosy-faced landlord, with until her brain grew wild and dizzy, and Hunt, then, mebby? that peculiar intonation which stamped when at sunset the physician came again, he was surprised to find how much her fever had increased. Occasionally, said Durward, adding, But my reason for stopping here is of en-tirely a different nature. I hear there is him at once a genuine Yankee.

"A watched pot never biles," muttered one of the loungers, who regularly for fifteen years had been at his post, waiting for the stage, which during all that time school boys made her shudder. "[sn't well attended to. had brought him neither letter, message, friend, nor foe. quiet?"

But force of habit is everything, and after the very wise saying recorded above he resumed his whittling, never again looking up until the loud blast of the dr

ver's horn was heard on the distant hil top, where the four weary, jaded horses were now visible. It was the drivers usual custom to blow his horn from the given her the front chamber, which was answered Durward. moment he appeared on the hill, until with a grand flourish he reined his panting steeds before the door of the inn. But this time there was one sharp, shrill sound, and then all was still, the omission half git his pay, anyway, and he warn't a another cap, repaired to the sittingplimentary to the weather, which was goin' to give up the hull house." 

for a time had suspended his whittling, eight by nine pen." wondered what was to pay. A nearer approach revealed three or muttered Uncle Tim, while Jerry, going whether she would probably recognize four male passengers, all occupied with a

young lady, who, on the back seat was carefully supported by one of her com- too small to meet the extra dollar per known a soul on us these three days.-"A sick gal, 1 guess. Wonder if the

disease is catchin'?'' said the whittler, for tobacker and things, I shouldn't be so innocent. 'Pears like somebody had been over the heads of the others, who crowded the many hearts which his hard-earned with Durward, as she calls him not to be-

'Lena's stomach rebelled at the very girl. Erelong the stage was announced 'Lena's suspicions were at once aroused, and thought, seeing which, the landlady went as ready and waiting, but to the surprise for more than an hour she lay thinking-tryback to the kitchen, where she soon pre- and regret of his fellow-passengers, who ing to recall something which seemed to her pared a bowl of gruel, in spite of the dis- had found him a most agreeable travel- like a dream. At last calling Aunt Betsey to couraging remarks of her husband, who, ling companion, Durward said he was not her, she said, There was somebody here while being a little after the Old Hunks order, going any further that day. cautioned her "not to fuss too much, as "A new streak, ain't it?" asked Jerry somebody that staid with me all the timegals that run away warn't apt to be who knew he was booked for the entire who was it? plagued with money." route; but the young man made no re-

Nobody, nobody-I mustn't tell, said Mrs. Fortunately, Aunt Betsey's heart cover- ply, and the fresh, spirited horse soon Was it Cousin John Aldergrass, hurriedly, while 'Lena continued, ed a broader sphere, and the moment the bore the lumbering vehicle far out of

stage was gone she closed the door to sight, leaving him to watch the cloud of Aldergrass' reply, and 'Lena, clasping her tains, and drawing from the spare-room a Uncle Timothy was in his element, for The words reached Durward's ear, and large, stuffed chair, bade 'Lena "see if it was not often that a guest of Durward's nothing but a sense of the harm it might do she couldn't set up a minit." But this appearance honored his house with more prevented him from going at once to her bedwas impossible, and all that long, sultry than a passing call, and with the familiar- side. That night, at his earnest request, the afternoon she lay upon the lounge, hold- ity so common to a country landlord, he physician gave him perm ssion to see her in ing her aching head, which seemed well- slapped him on the shoulder, telling him the morning, and Mrs. Aldergrass was comnigh bursting with its weight of pain and "there was the tallest kind of fish in the missioned to prepare her for the interview thought. "Was it right for her to run Honeoye," whose waters, through the 'Lena did not ask who it was; she felt that away? Ought she not to have staid and thick foliage of the trees, were just dis- she knew; and the knowledge that he was bravely met the worst? Suppose she cernible, sparkling and gleaming in the there-that he had cared for her-operated upon her like a spell, soothing her into the and without money, for her scanty purse I never fish, thank you, sir, answered most refreshing slumber she had experienced was well-nigh drained." These and Durward, while the good-natured land- for many a weary week. With the sunrising similar reflections crowded upon her, lord continued: Now you don't say it! she was awake, but Mrs. Aldergrass, who came in soon after, told her that the visitor was not to be admitted until about ten, as she would by that time have become more composed, and be the better able to endure the excitement of the interview. A natural deli-"She ought not to lie here," said he, with you a sick lady. She is a friend of as he saw how the loud shouts of the mine, and I am staying to see that she is lay, and, as calmly as possible, she watched there some place where she can be more Yes, yes, said Uncle Timothy, suddenly rights, and then patiently submitted to the changing his opinion of 'Lena, whose arranging of her curls, which during her ill-At the head of the stairs was a small want of money had made him sadly sus. ness had become matted and tangled. Be-

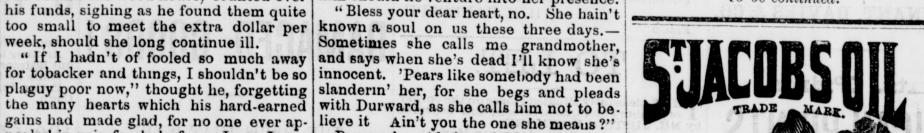
room, which last looked out upon the picious of her. Yes, yes, a fine gal; fell fore eight everything was in readiness, and garden and the graveyard beyond. Its into good hands, too, for my old woman is soon after, worn out by her own exertions, furniture was of the plainest kind, it be- the greatest kind of a nuss. Wan't to 'Lena again fell asleep. ing reserved for more common travelers, see her, don't you?—the lady I mean. and here the landlord said 'Lena must be Not just yet; I would like a few mo- grass. He shall just have a peep at her, and

taken. His wife would far rather have ments' conversation with your wife first, stepping to the door she beckoned Durward to her side

large, airy and light, but Uncle Tim Al- Greatly frustrated when she learned Never before had 'Lena seemed so beautiful dergaass said "No," squealing out- that the stylish looking gentleman wished to him, and as he looked upon her, he felt his through his little peaked nose that to talk with her, Aunt Betsey rubbed her doubts removing, one by one. She was inno-"twarn't an atom like he'd ever more'n shining face with flour, and donning cent-it could not be otherwise-and very hours which must pass ere he could see her, face to face. At length, as the surest way of face to face. At length, as the surest way of face to face. At length, as the surest way of face to face. At length, as the surest way of face to face. At length, as the surest way of face to face. At length, as the surest way of face to face. At length, as the surest way of face to face. impatiently he awaited the lapse of the two room, where she commenced making ex. "How much more will it be if she has cuses about herself, the house, and every-

the idler of fifteen years standing, who 'taint too much, she shan't stay in that As soon as he was able to get in a word, other chapter we speak of an event which, in Durward proceeded to ask her every par- the natural order of things, should here be "A dollar a week, and cheap at that," ticular concerning 'Lena's illness, and narrated.

To be continued.





by Jerry with a low "sh-sh," as he pointed significantly at the slight form which two of the gentlemen were lifting from the coach, asking at the same time if there were a physician near.

"What's the matter on her? Hain't got the cholery, has she," said the landlord, who, having hallooed to his wife to "fetch up her vittles," now appeared on the piazza ready to welcome his guests.

At the first mention of cholera, the fifteen years man vamosed, retreating across the road, and seating himself on the fence under the shadow of the locust trees.

"Who is she, Jerry ?" asked the younger of the set, gazing curiously upon the white, beautiful face of the stranger, who had been laid upon the lounge in the common sitting room.

"Lord only knows," said Jerry, wiping the heavy drops of sweat from his good humored face; I found her at the hotel in Livony! She came there in the cars, and said she wanted to go over to 'tother railroad. She was so weak that I had to seen how sweet she smiled when she thanked me, and asked me not to drive very fast, it made her head ache so .-Zounds, I wouldn't of trotted the horses if I'd never got here, Just after we started she fainted, and she's been kinder talkin' strange-like ever since. Some of the gentlemen thought I'd better to leave

her back a piece at Brown's tavern, but I · This last remark called forth no answer-

peculiarities he well knew, and bade him not to fret and stew, for if the gal hadn't them under the muslin cap, where they Navor mind me said he. Let her have money, Jerry Langley was good for a longer time than she would live, poor nitter, and he minod a tonnerse gland them under the mushin cap, where they refused to stay. Once the doctor himself had suggested the propriety of cutting had suggested the propriety of cutting had suggested the propriety of cutting critter; and he wiped a tear away, glanc-them away, adding, though, that they shall be amply paid.

ing, the while, at the burying ground which lay just across the garden, and them. ing the headstones which marked the last tear out handfuls of her shining hair and moved. It was in vain that Aunt Betsey resting place of the slumbering host, and scatter it over the floor. wondering if death were, as some had said, a long, eternal sleep.

Aunt Betsy, of whom he had spoken, carefully approached the bedside, and try his powers of personance like it, said taking one of the curls in her hand, was That's something more like it, said faced, active woman, equally in her ele-ment bending over the steaming gridiron, or smoothing the pillows of the sick-bed, where her powers of nursing had won golden laurels from others than Jerry her tight and her the urged upon her the net to sever it, when 'Lena, divining her intentions, sprang up, and gathering up her hair, exclaimed, "No, no, not these; take everything else, but leave me my curls. Durward thought they were her tight and her the certainly, said he And stay with me? Certainly golden laurels from others than Jerry beautiful, and I cannot lose them." Langley. When the news was brought to At the side door below, the noonday

forward as the stage came up. The loud gains had made glad, for no one ever ap- lieve it Ain't you the one she meaus ?' pealed in vain for help from Jerry Lang-Durward nodded, and Mrs. Aldergrass ley, who represented one class of Yan- continued : "I thought so, for when the kees, while Timothy Aldergrass represent stage driv up she was standin' straight in ed another. the bed, ravin' and screechin', but the The next morning just as daylight was minit she heard your voice she dropped

out behind the wood house, counted over him should he venture into her presence.

week, should she long continue ill.

had at first feared.

beginning to be visible, Jerry knocked down, and has been quiet ever since .softly at Aunt Betsey's door, telling her Will you go up now ?'

that for more than an hour he'd heard the Durward signified his willingness, and young lady takin' on, and he guessed she following his landlady, he soon stood in was worse. Hastily throwing on her the close pent-up room, where, in an unloose-gown Aunt Betsey repaired to 'Le- easy slumber, 'Lena lay panting for breath na's room, where she found her sitting up in the bed, moaning, talking, and whis- sleep. She had fearfully changed since pering, while the wild expression of her last he saw her, and, with a groan, he bent over her, murmuring, My poor 'Lena, eyes betokened a disordered brain. "The Lord help us! she's crazy as a while he gently laid his cool moist hand loon. Run for the doctor quick !" ex- upon her burning brow. As if there were claimed Mrs. Aldergrass, and without something soothing in its touch, she boot or shoe, Jerry ran off in his stocking- quickly placed her little hot, parched feet, alarming the physician, who imme- hand on his, whispering, " Keep it there. diately hastened to the inn, pronouncing It will make me well."

'Lena's disease to be brain fever, as he For a long time he sat by her, bathing her head and carefully removing from her

Rapidly she grew worse, talking of her face and neck the thick curls which Mrs. home, which was sometimes in Kentucky Aldergrass had thought to cut away. At and sometimes in Massachusetts, where last she awoke, but Durward shrank allift her into the stage as I would a baby, they said they had buried her mother. most in fear from the wild, bright eyes At other times she would ask Aunt Betsey which gazed so fixedly upon him, for in to send for Durward when she was dead, them was no ray of reason. She called and tell him how innocent she was. him John, blessing him for coming, and "Didn't I tell you there was something saying, Did you tell Durward. Does he wrong?" Uncle Timothy would squeak. know?

Nobody knows who we are harborin' nor I am Durward, said he. Don't you recognize me? Look again.

how much 'twill damage the house. But as day after day went by, and No, no, she answered with a mocking 'Lena's fever raged more fiercely, even laugh, which made him shudder, it was so Uncle Tim relented, and when she would unlike the merry, ringing tones he had wanted to fetch her here, where Aunt beg of them to take her home and bury once loved to hear. No, no, you are not Betsy could nuss her up, and then I can her by the side of Mabel, where Durward Durward. He would not look at me as could see her grave, he would sigh, "Poor you do. He thinks me guilty.

critter, I wish you was to home," but It was in vain Durward strove to coning joke, for Jerry's companions all knew whether this wish was prompted with a vince her of his indentity. She would his kindly nature, and it was no wonder sincere desire to please 'Lena, or from a only answer with a laugh, which grated so to them that his sympathies were so more selfish motive, we are unable to harship on his ear that he finally desisted strongly enlisted for the fair girl thus state. One morning, the fifth of 'Lena's and suffered her to think he was her thrown upon his protection. It was a big, illness, she seemed much worse, talking cousin. The smallness of her chamber noble heart over which Jerry Langley incessantly and tossing from side to side, troubled him, and when Mrs. Aldergrass hoble heart over which Jerry Langley buttoned his driver's coat, and when the physician who had arrived pronounced the lady too ill to proceed any further, he called aside the fidgety landlord, whose paculiarities he well knew and hade him

thinking how if she died, her grave should "Better be cut off than yanked off," snowy, draped bed was soon in readiness be beneath the wide-spreading oak, where said Aunt Betsey, on the morning when for the sufferer, who, in one of her wayoften in the summer nights he sat count-Lena in her frenzy would occasionally ward moods, absolutely refused to be

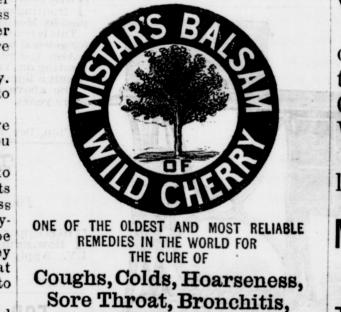
plead, persuaded, and threatened, and at Satisfied that she was doing right, she last in despair Durward was called in to carefully approached the bedside, and try his powers of persuasion.

was the landlady, a little dumpy, pleasant about to sever it, when 'Lena, divining 'Lena, and when he urged upon her the

Certainly.

the kitchen that among the passengers was a sick girl, who was to be left, her first thought notional to exempled in more and she was realining. first thought, natural to everybody, was, open window, 'Lena suddenly grew cal- A moment more and she was reclining

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Accordingly, when the dinner was upon waved to and fro with untiring patience. clipped her curls !"

If there was any one thing for which Aunt Betsey Aldergrass possessed a particular passion, it was for hair cutting, she which numbered about thirty houses. store and church inclusive, and now when such profusion upon the pillow her fingers Aldergrass. tingled to their very tips, while she involuntarily felt for her scissors! Very reve- she live ?'' continued the stranger. rentially, as if it were almost sacrilege,

Slowly the long, fringed lids unclosed, and the brown eyes looked up so gratefully at Jerry, that he beat a precipitate observing his agitated manner. "She all that was necessary for her to know, never could stand the gals, anyway, they made his heart thump so !"

"Am I very sick, and can't I go on !" asked the young lady, attempting to rise, but sinking back from extreme weakness.

the landlady, taking from a side cupboard an immense decanter of camphor, and if she should die? Yet why should I passing it toward the stranger. "Conyou had to lay by a day or so. Will they deed resting in her grave !" be consarned about you to home, 'cause And still, reason as he w if they be, my old man'll write.

"I have no home," was the sad an- else, perhaps, he had never followed her. swer to which Aunt Betsey responded in Believing she would stop at Mr. Everett's, sharpened by disease, she more than once

tears dropping fast upon the pillow.

to her, as she asked, "And your pa-- tering to her comfort, and softening, as thought, Oh, what if it had indeed been

your pa, and your marm is dead-poor almost everything, and if ever Durward caught the faint tones of her voice, and what is your name, and where did Bellmont felt glad that he was rich, it was longing for the hour when he could see you come from ?"

and then thinking it better to tell the Laurel Hill. truth at once, she replied, My name is As he was entering the dining room, he he had heard 'Lena say in her ravings, 'Lena. I lived with my uncle a great saw Jerry-whose long, lank figure and had tended to convince him that she, at many miles from here, but I wasn't happy They did not want me there, and I ran away. I am going to my cousin, but I'd rather not tell where, so you will please I amusement during his ride—handing a dozen or more oranges to Mrs. Aldergrass, saying, as he did so, "they are for Miss I amusement during his ride—handing a to f this, he felt that he would gladly fold her to his bosow, and cherish her there as the choicest of heaven's blessings. All

natural to her, was, "Take care of her, of whispered, "Hark! He's come. Don't pride of Mrs. Aldergrass, who bustled in mer, and assuming a listening attitude, on the soft downy pillows, the special you hear him ?" and out, while her husband, ashamed of

But Aunt Betsey heard nothing, except his stinginess, said they should of moved the table, she laid aside her broad check her husband calling her to come down, her afore, only 'twas a bad sign.

apron, substituting in its place a half-worn and leaving 'Lena, who had almost in- During the remainder of the day she silk, for Jerry had reported the invalid to be "every inch a lady;" then smoothing neighbor, she started for the kitchen, it is true, but never raving if Durward her soft, silvery hair with her fat, rosy meeting in the lower hall with Hetty, who were near. It is strange what power he hands, she repaired to the sitting room, where she found the driver watching his room where he could wash and refresh any time to subdue her when in her most charge, from whom he kept the buzzing himself after his dusty ride. As they pas. violent fits of frenzy. For two days and flies by means of his bandana, which he sed each other, Hetty asked, "Have you nights he watched by her side, never giv-

"Handsome as a London doll," was her "No," answered Mrs. Aldergrass, "she neighbors looked on, surmising and coming himself a moment's rest, while the first exclamation, adding, "but I should wouldn't let me touch 'em, for she said menting as people always will. Every dethink she'd be awful hot with them curls, that Durward, whom she talks so much licacy of the season, however costly, was danglin' in her neck! If she's goin' to about, liked 'en, and they mustn't be cut purchased for her comfort, while each morning the flowers which he knew she Instantly the stranger, whose elegant loved the best were freshly gathered from

appearance both Hetty and her mistress the different gardens of Laurel Hill, and being barber general for Laurel Hill, had been admiring, stopped, and turning in broken pitchers, cracked tumblers, and which numbered about the to the latter, said, "Oh whom are you nicked saucers, adorned the room.

speaking ?" At the close of the third day she fell "Of a young girl that came in the stage into a heavy slumber, and Durward worn she saw the shining tresses which lay in sick, five or six days ago," answered Mrs. out and weary, retired to take the rest he so much needed. For a long time 'Lena "What is her name, and where does slept, watched hy the physician, who, knowing that the crisis had arrived. "She calls herself'Lena, but the 'tother waited anxiously for her waking which Jerry's broad palm was laid protectingly upon the clustering ringlets, while he said, "No, Aunt Betsey, if she dies for't, The young man waited to hear no more about the room, and in a voice no longer you shant touch one of them; 'twould but mechanically followed Hetty to his strong with the excitement of delirium, room, starting and turning pale as a wild, asked, "where am I, and how came I

unnatural laugh fell on his ear. here ?" "It is the young lady, sir," said Hetty, raves most all the time, and the doctor and then going for Mrs. Aldergrass, told says she'll die if she don't stop.'

The gentleman nodded, and the next adding that a sudden shock might still moment he was, as he wished to be, alone. He had found her then-his lost 'Lena-"Considerable sick, I guess," answered sick, perhaps dying, and his heart gave one agonized throb as he thought, "What wish her to live ?" he asked, "when she siderable sick, and I wouldn't wonder if is as surely lost to me as if she were in. of which time she can see him.

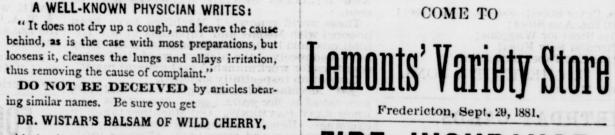
> And still, reason as he would, a something told him that all would yet be well,

astonishment, "Hain't no home! Where he had come on this far, finding her when he was talking in the hall below, stonishment, "Hain't no home! Where loes your marm live?" "Mother is dead," said the girl, her tears dropping fast upon the pillow. he had come on this far, finding ner his fears, there was much of pleasure mingled with his pain as he thought how here he row for her minis-tears for her minis-

far as possible, the disagreeable things he! "I never saw him," said the girl, while which he saw must necessarily surround Nearly all the day long he sat just withher interrogator continued : "Never saw her. Money, he knew, would purchase out the door, holding his breath as he

when he found 'Lena Rivers sick and her, and obtain if possible, some clue to

many miles from here, but I wasn't happy original manner had afforded him much least, might be innocent, and once assured



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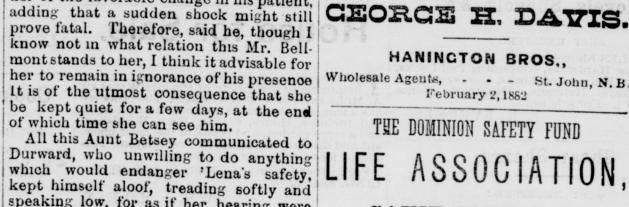


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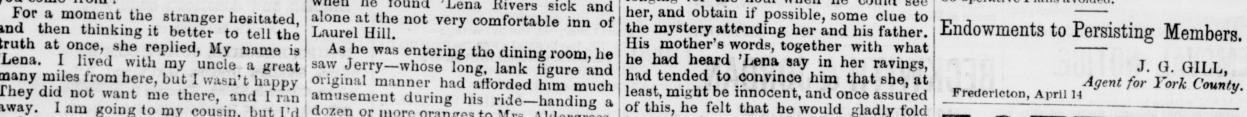
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'Lena. I thought mebby they'd taste this time 'Lena had no suspicion of his



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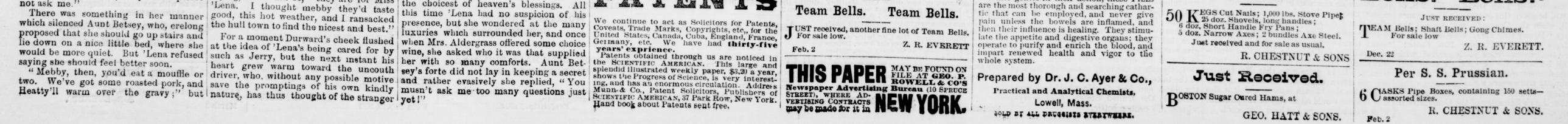
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