

"Put Yourself in my Place."

"I cannot wait any longer. I must have my money, and if you cannot pay it I must foreclose the mortgage and sell the place," said Mr. Merton.

"In that case," said Mr. Bishop, "it will, of course, be sold at a great sacrifice, and after all the struggles I have made, my family will again be homeless. It is hard. I only wish you could earn your money as I do mine; you might then know something of the hard life of a poor man. If you could, only in imagination, put yourself in my place, I think you would have a little mercy on me."

"It is useless talking; I extended this one year, and I can do so no longer," replied Mr. Merton, as he turned to his desk and continued writing.

The poor man rose from his seat and walked sadly out of Mr. Merton's office. His last hope was gone. He had just recovered from a long illness which had swallowed up the means with which he had intended to make the last payment on his house. True, Mr. Merton had waited one year when he had failed to meet the demand, owing to illness in his family, and he had felt very much obliged to him for doing so. This year he had been laid up for seven months, during which time he could earn nothing, and all his savings were then needed for the support of his family. Again he failed, and now he would again be homeless and have to begin the world anew. Had heaven forsaken him, and given him over to the tender mercies of the wicked?

After he had left the office, Mr. Merton could not drive away from his thoughts the remark to which the poor man in his grief gave utterance, "I wish you had to earn your money as I do mine."

In the midst of a row of figures, "Put yourself in my place" intruded. Once after it had crossed his mind he laid down his pen, saying, "Well, I think I should find it rather hard. I have a mind to drop in there this afternoon and see how it fares with his family; that man has aroused my curiosity."

About five o'clock he put on a gray wig and some old cast-off clothes and walked to the door. Mrs. Bishop, a pale, weary-looking woman, opened it. The poor old man requested permission to enter and rest awhile, saying he was very tired with his long journey, for he had walked many miles that day.

Mrs. Bishop cordially invited him in, and gave him the best seat the room afforded; she then began to make preparation for tea.

The old gentleman watched her attentively. He saw there was no elasticity in her step, no hope in her movements, and pity for her began to enter into his heart. When her husband entered, her features relaxed into a smile, and she forced a cheerfulness into her manner. The traveller noted it all, and he was forced to admire this woman who could assume a cheerfulness she did not feel for her husband's sake. After the table was prepared, there was nothing on it but bread and butter and tea. They invited the stranger to eat with them, saying, "We have not much to offer you, but a cup of tea will refresh you after your long journey."

He accepted their hospitality, and, as they discussed the frugal meal, led them without seeming to do so, to talk of their affairs.

"I bought this piece of land," said Mr. Bishop, "at a very low price, and instead of waiting, as I ought to have done, until I saved the money to build, I thought I would borrow a few hundred dollars. The interest on the money would be near as much as the rent I was paying, and I would be saving something by it. I did not think there would be any difficulty in paying back the money; but the first year my wife and one of my children were ill, and the expense left me without means to pay the debt. Mr. Merton agreed to wait another year if I would pay the interest, which I did. This year I was for seven months unable to work at my trade and earn anything, and of course when pay day comes round—and that will be very soon—I shall be unable to meet the demand."

"But," said the stranger, "will not Mr. Merton wait another year, if you make all the circumstances known to him?"

"No, Sir," replied Mr. Bishop; I saw him this morning, and he said he must have the money and should be obliged to foreclose."

"He must be very hard-hearted," remarked the traveller.

"Not necessarily so," replied Mr. Bishop. "The fact is, these rich men know nothing of the struggles of the poor. They are men, just like the rest of mankind, and I am sure, if they had but the faintest idea of what the poor have to pass through, their hearts and purses would open. You know it has passed into a proverb—'When a poor man needs assistance, he should apply to the poor.' The reason is obvious. Only the poor know the cost of poverty. They know how heavily it falls, crushing the heart of man, and (to use my favorite expression) they can at once put themselves in the unfortunate man's place and appreciate difficulties, and are, therefore, always ready to render assistance, so far as they are able. If Mr. Merton had the least idea what I and my family had to pass through, I think he would be willing to wait several years for his money rather than distress us."

With what emotion the stranger listened may be imagined. A new world was being opened to him. He was passing through an experience that had never been his before. Shortly after the conclusion of the meal he arose to take his leave, thanking Mr. and Mrs. Bishop for their kind hospitality. They invited him to stay all night, telling him he was welcome to what they had.

He thanked them and said, "I will trespass on your kindness no longer. I think I can reach the next village before dark, and be so much farther on my journey."

Mr. Merton did not sleep much that night; he lay awake thinking. He had received a new revelation. The poor had always been associated in his mind with stupidity and ignorance, and the first poor family he had visited he had found far in advance in intelligent

sympathy and real politeness, of the exquisite and fashionable butterflies of the day.

The next day a boy called at the cottage and left a package in a large blue envelope, addressed to Mr. Bishop.

Mrs. Bishop was very much alarmed when she took it, for large blue envelopes were associated in her mind with law and lawyers, and she thought that it boded no good. She put it away until her husband came home from his work, when she handed it to him.

He opened it in silence, read its contents, and said fervently, "Thank heaven!"

"What is it, John?" inquired his anxious wife.

"Good news, wife," replied John; "such news as I never hoped for or even dreamed of."

"What is it—that is it! Tell me quick!—I want to hear, if it's anything good."

"Mr. Merton has cancelled the mortgage—released me from debt, both interest and principal—and says any time I need further assistance, if I will let him know, I shall have it."

"I am so glad! It puts new life into me," said the now happy wife. "But what can have come over Mr. Merton?"

"I do not know. It seems strange after the way he talked to me yesterday morning. I will go right over to Mr. Merton's and tell him how happy he has made us."

He found Mr. Merton in and expressed his gratitude in glowing terms.

"What could have induced you," he asked, "to show us so much kindness?"

"I followed your suggestion," replied Mr. Merton, "and put myself in your place. I expect that will surprise you very much to learn that the strange traveller to whom you showed so much kindness yesterday was myself."

"Indeed!" exclaimed Mr. Bishop, "can that be true?" How did you disguise yourself so well?"

"I was not so much disguised, after all; but you could not very readily associate Mr. Merton the lawyer with a poor wayfaring man—ha! ha! ha!" laughed Mr. Merton.

"Well, it is a good joke," said Mr. Bishop; "good in more senses than one. It has terminated very pleasantly for me."

"I was surprised," said Mr. Merton, "at the broad and liberal views you expressed of men and their actions generally. I supposed I had greatly the advantage over you in means and education; yet how cramped and narrow-minded have been my views besides yours! That wife of yours is an estimable woman, and that boy of yours will be an honor to any man. I tell you Bishop," said the lawyer, becoming animated, "you are rich—rich beyond what money could give you; you have treasures that gold will not buy. I tell you, you owe me no thanks. Somehow I seemed to have lived years since yesterday morning. What I have learned at your house is worth more than you owe me, and I am your debtor yet. Hereafter I shall take as my motto, 'put yourself in his place,' and try to regulate my actions by it."

Horses of the Light Brigade at Belalava.

The extent to which a charger can appreciate the perils of a battlefield may be easily understood by one who confines his observations to horses still carrying their riders, for as long as a troop horse in action feels the weight and the hand of a master his deep trust keeps him seemingly free from great terror, and he goes through the fight, until wounded, as though it were a field day at home; but the moment that death or a disabling wound deprives him of his rider he seems all at once to learn what a battle is to perceive its real dangers with the clearness of a human being, and to be agitated with horror of the fate he may incur for the want of a hand to guide him. Careless of the mere thunder of guns he shows plainly enough that he more or less knows the dread accident that is used by missiles of war while cutting their way through the air, for as often as these sounds disclose to him the near passage of bullets or round shot he shrinks and cringes. His eyes protrude. Will with fright he still does not most commonly gallop home into camp. His instinct seems rather to tell him that what safety, if any, there is for him must be found in the ranks, and he rushes at the first squadron he can find, urging piteously yet with violence, that he too by right is a troop horse, that he too is willing to charge but not to be left behind—that he must and will "fall in." Sometimes a riderless charger, though bent on allying with his fellows, will not be content to range himself on the flank of the line, but dart at some point in the squadron which he seemingly judges to be his own right place and strives to force himself in. Riding, as it is useful for the commander of a regiment to do, some way in advance of his regiment, Lord George Paget was especially tormented and pressed by the riderless horses which turned round and aligned with him. At one time there were three or four of these horses advancing close abreast to him on one side and as many as five on the other—"Kinglake's Crimean War, Vol. IV."

NEW IRON CLAD "INFLEXIBLE."—One of Britain's biggest and best ships is the "Inflexible," which has been, not inaptly, described as a floating castle. It is 320 feet in length, 75 feet wide, rising 10 feet out of the water, and on top of that erection are two turrets plated diagonally at opposite corners. This so-called castle (and its turrets) is heavily plated with iron. The ship below and about the castle has bow and stern ends, each of which are the same length as the citadel section. The unarmored structures attached to the castle rise 8 feet above the water. The hull is, therefore, divided into three equal parts of 110 feet each, the middle section of which is armored, but the other, 220 feet on the broad-side is not, although the latter is protected by a shot proof deck from 6 to 8 feet below the load-line. The armor-plating of the central citadel is 24 inches thick at the bow-line, 12 inches opposite the turrets, and 10 inches on the side between the position of the turrets. The turrets are plated with 18 inch armor. Between the inner ship and the armor-plating is a packing of cork. The whole side of the ship is 4 feet thick. There is a double skin filled with iron diagonal webs, teak, and cork. The outer skin plating of the bottom varies from 5-16ths of an inch in the garboard strakes to 2 inch, with the exception of the ends, where the thickness is increased to 3 inch, and behind the anchors, where the plating is doubled. The plating of the inner bottom is of the uniform thickness of 3 inch, but under the engine is 7-16ths.

Medical.

CATARRH

IS IT CURABLE?

THOSE who have suffered from the various and complicated Catarrhs of the Throat, Lungs, and Bladder, and who have tried every physician and remedy without success, will find in the following a complete and reliable cure. It is a simple, safe, and effective remedy, and is the only one that will cure the disease in its various forms, whether it be Catarrh of the Throat, Lungs, or Bladder, or any of the other organs of the system. It is a powerful purifying agent, and it is the only one that will cure the disease in its various forms, whether it be Catarrh of the Throat, Lungs, or Bladder, or any of the other organs of the system.

It can be cured.

It can be cured. There is no doubt about it. The immediate relief afforded by Saxon's Catarrh Cure is a sure and reliable proof of its efficacy. It is a simple, safe, and effective remedy, and is the only one that will cure the disease in its various forms, whether it be Catarrh of the Throat, Lungs, or Bladder, or any of the other organs of the system.

A COMPLICATED CASE.—Gentlemen, My case is as follows: I have been afflicted with Catarrh of the Throat, Lungs, and Bladder, and I have tried every physician and remedy without success. I am now in a very bad state of health, and I am unable to do any work. I am very much distressed, and I am unable to do any work. I am very much distressed, and I am unable to do any work.

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Medical.

Consumption Cured!!

The undersigned, an old retired physician, having been permanently cured of the much dreaded disease of Consumption by a simple remedy, is anxious to make known to the public the nature of the cure. To all who desire it, he will send a copy of the prescription used, and will also be pleased to give directions for preparing and using the same, which will be found in the following: **Consumption Cured!!** **Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.**

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