A CASE OF NECESSITY.

BY MARY E. BRADLEY. (Continued.)

'I know it, I answered, trembling with excitement and amazement at her heartlessness. 'But it's your brother who has it, You can't mean to go away and leave him like this, Miss Prissy. You can't mean it!'

'Can't I? You're a fool, Helen Earle, and that's all I've got to say to

She turned her back upon me in angry contempt, and jerked at the bell rope again. A negro girl, ash-colored with fright, popped her head over the banisters, and Miss Prissy rushed at her with a vituperation for not answering the bell sooner.

'Come here this minute, you Susan! What are you hugging the banisters for when I want you to help me with these trunks?'

The girl clung to the stair-rails, and shook her head desperately.

'I kaint cum up dah, Miss Prissy, no how yo' can fix it. I'se afeared o' dat small-pock wus'n de debbel, an' I'se gwine out'n dis house fas' as I kin trabbel. I jes cum dis fur to tell yo' so. Now I'se a-gwine ter leave, double quick.'

And she vanished down the stairway, heedless of the threats which her mistress, stamping with rage, screamed after her.

'Kaint help it, Miss Prissy, ef you does keep my wages. Might as well be dead an' de debbel got me, as git dat cow-pock onter me. All de money in de worl' would'n cur' me o' dat.'

I turned away in disgust, leaving Miss Prissy raging still, and walked to the end of the long passage, where window opened upon the pleasant oldfashioned garden, and where sweet odors stole in, and peaceful sights and sounds made a strange contrast to the selfish tumult going on within house. I leaned my head against the window-frame in a tremor of excitement, and tried to bring my thoughts to bear on the vague purpose that was forming itself in my mind. Dr. Ripley followed me, and looked at me with a glance that seemed to comprehend it.

'You had better go home, Helen before Mrs. Rand gets wind of this She'll not like you being here, and you can't do any good. Go home, child.'

'I'm not so sure that I can't do any good, Dr. Ripley. Two years agowhen my father died-vou said I had the stuff in me that nurses are made of.' 'Did I?' he answered, absently. dare say it was true in that case, but this is another matter.'

Do you know anybody that you can send here to nurse Mr. Parkinson? You see what Miss Prissy is doing, doctor. She'll frighten the whole community, so that nobody will dare to come near the house.

'That's true; and I don't know nurse in the place that would come to a small-pox case anyhow. It's a chance if I could get one from New York even. I'm in a quandary, Helen, there's no denying it. If I could be nurse and doctor, too, it would be easy enough. I would take all the risks cheerfully. for John's sake. But you see I have my other patients to think of.'

'While I have nobody, doctor. If take the small-pox and die, it will no make the least difference to a living creature. I haven't so much as a cat or a bird to miss me.'

There was bitterness in my tone, and the doctor looked at me kindly. He knew the circumstances of my life, as most people did in the little town where we lived, -or thought they did. at all events. Mrs. Rand and her daughters had made it a familiar fact in their circle that I was an ungrateful creature who returned evil for good. and rewarded their bounty with churlish dislike. I had no circle for my part, took no interest in Greenville society, was scornful of its petty gossip, and cared nothing for what was thought of me in a place where Mrs. Rand's falsehoods were believed. Consequently I was not liked, and it was true enough that my death would have made small difference to any living creature. The doctor was a man, however, who drew his own conclusions, and did not believe everything that came to his ears, He had known and respected my father, and he had always shown a kindly feeling for me. At the same time he did not hesitate to find fault with me on occasion, and he did it now.

'You are more or less to blame for that state of things, Helen. I have told you before, that to have friends, one must show himself friendly. You despise the world you live in, and naturally it returns the compliment.'

'The world I live in takes me at a disadvantage, and treats me with injustice. You know it, doctor.'

yourself up like a clam in his shell, and tempt people to believe unkind things of you.'

'They are welcome!' I said, proudly. 'I don't care what people think or without being constantly in the room impulsively. 'How could I have entell you that until you could do better, I've written down on this paper all the place to come to? I was always sure 'Nonsense!' he exclaimed. "What

would Mrs. Rand say? I should have the whole town about my ears! And besides, John would never consent to it. It can't be thought of, not for a notminute.

'Can you think of anything better,

'No, I can't; confound it all!' he muttered. 'What on earth does he want with those old books? Miss take good care of Mr. Parkinson. Prissy is right enough there. There was no excuse for his running into

danger.' 'But since he has,' I insisted, "and since you have nothing better to pro-

crazy to think of such a thing. A alcove near the open door of the sickyoung girl like you to nurse a man room. A shaded lamp burned on Mr. with the small-pox! It makes me fran- Parkinson's desk, making a circle of tic to think of it; and yet I don't know radiance in its immediate neighborwhat else I can do.'

felt curiously cool.

There goes Miss Prissy down the fitfully in his bed; and I sat wakeful of making more movey at once then contained that will put you in the way of making more movey at once then contained in the way of making more movey at once then contained in the way of making more movey at once then contained in the way of making more movey at once then contained in the way of making more movey at once then contained in the way of making more movey at once then contained in the way of making more movey at once then contained in the way of making more movey at once then contained in the way of making more movey at once then contained in the way of making more movey at once then contained in the way of making more movey at once then contained in the way of making more movey at once then contained in the way of making more movey at once the contained in the way of making more movey at once the contained in the way of making more movey at once the contained in the way of making more movey at once the contained in the way of making more movey at once the contained in the way of making more movey at once the contained in the way of making more movey at once the contained in the way of making more movey at once the contained in the way of making more movey at once the contained in the way of the contained in the contained i Alley,' I said. 'Susan went before she and watchful, pondering many things of making more money at once, than anything else in America. Both sexes of all ages can live at bome and work in special value. Give us a did, and there's nobody left but little in my heart.

her do some good if she can.'

A smothered groan from the library, and a call for the doctor, prevented his answering. He hurried back to his patient, and it was nearly half an hour before I saw him again.

tion that the need of me would presentblind to any of them, nor even so inthat would arise. The matter would when they couldn't. be town talk, of course, and I could It was not a pleasant imagination, but in his need. Neither could the grim facts in the case daunt my determinasecured. It was a loathsome and a dangerous disease, and it might be deadly for one or both. Never mind, that would be as God saw fit. Mean-

while I was young and sound in body, and fearless in spirit; and this sick man had been my kind friend. I remembered a hundred little ways in which he had shown me sympathy and consideration; I recalled times when a look, a word, had lightened my heart, because it showed me his comprehension of the burden I bore, and his gentle pity for me. Should I let him suffer now for a cup of cold water, perhaps, in the mean fear of harm to myself? Not I, indeed! My veins were filled with youth and strength,

and my heart with grateful compassion; I did not shrink from fatigue or dread contagion, or care for spiteful tongues. Jimmy Doolan came creeping along the passage by and by, and planted himself opposite me, with a half-scared, yet indignant and appealing look in his

'They're afther clearin' out, Miss Helen, the whole kit an' boodle of em,' he remarked.

'So I supposed, Jimmy.' 'That Blackymore, Susan, ain't got the sinse of a nit, he continued, with a disgusted expression. 'I towld her she'd be none the worse for takin' the disase, aven if she tuk it, which there's no tellin' whether she wud or she wudn't. 'Look at mesilf,' ses I; isn't it me that's had it till ye can pit your finger in the holes all over me face? An' I'm livin' to tell ye, ses I. But the black thing wudn't listen to rayson, Miss Helen.'

'You couldn't expect more of her than of the mistress, Jimmy.' 'Thrue for you, Miss Helen. 'An' it's a cryin' shame of Miss Prissy, that's

I could not deny that I agreed with him, so I kept silence; and Jimmy

'You don't look scared, Miss Helen. Are you goin' to stay here an' take care

'If the doctor will let me, I am.' The boy's face brightened. It was a ridiculous little face, in which freckles and pock-marks covered every inch of territory, and the nose of which had the air of having been docked for the benefit of his mouth and ears; yet it had shrewdness and intelligence, and it glowed now with genuine feeling that full of feverish pain. I gave him medi-

covered all its absurdities. 'Are you manin' it, Miss Helen Thin Miss Prissy, an' that fule of a nagur can go straight to the devil for all me. An' bad 'ciss to em !' he exclaimed, exultantly. 'We'll nurse him betune us, Miss Helen, an' we'll fetch him to, the pair of us, till he can snap his fingers at all the cowardly craychures that are afther lavin' him to die. Divil a bit wull he die? We won't give him

"So we won't, Jimmy!' I responded, warmly, my own heart lifted up somehow by the boy's confidence. 'And here comes the doctor. Now we'll see what he has to say, and I'll make him

say that I may stay.' I saw at the first glance that no strenuous effort would be needed. The doctor looked decidedly uneasy, and before I had time to speak, he said.

you at your word, Helen. The Lord forgive me if I'm doing wrong, but I've | you do, so do I; and I feel quite sure no choice. It's a very sick man in yonder, very sick, and he must be taken

care of. 'Sensible conclusion, doctor, and I'm glad you've come to it. Jimmy and I are ready for duty, so just give us your orders, and don't worry about me.'

'Jimmy?' The doctor smiled involuntarily at the comical eager face uplifted to him. 'He's here, is he? Well, he can fetch and carry for you, and it curiosity,' I returned, lightly. won't be quite so lonesome. Keep 'That's true to a great extent. But Jimmy by all means. Now come into he asked, earnestly, putting out a you could enlarge your borders if you the library, and I will tell you what tremulous hand to touch mine. 'I you have to do. I have put John to cannot bear the thought of your combed in his own room, and there is a ling to harm through me. I have aldoor between, you know. Keep that ways wanted to make your life hapopen, and settle yourself here, in the pier, poor child.' alcove; then you can look after him with him. Here are the medicines, and dured my life if I had not had this necessary directions for the night. I'll of sympathy here; and your books have drop in again before bed-time, and if I been a refuge to me. I don't know can scare up a woman or a man in the what they have not saved me from. town that's willing to take your place,

you may depend on my doing it. If 'We'll make the best of things as they are, doctor,' I answered, cheerfully. 'Don't feel so bad about me. I am really and truly not the least afraid, and neither is Jimmy. We mean to

'You don't know what you're under hand a good stock of GROCERtaking. But never mind! You'll find IES. out soon enough. The Lord bless you,

A few hours later, when the summer meal, Beef, Pork, Land twilight had given place to midnight 'You couldn't do it, Helen-you are darkness and silence, I sat alone in the hood, and leaving all the rest of the He was very much excited, but I great room in shadow. Jimmy Doolan lay asleep on a rug; my patient dozed

in the world has any use for. You'd dropping in again at bed-time, and had better take up with her offer, and let given me several items of information that furnished food for thought. The first did not surprize me. I was prepared to find that his efforts to procure a nurse had been fruitless, for at that period the treatment of smallpox, even in the large cities, had not been as well I sat down by the window and considered as it came to be later. In waited quietly, with a growing convic- the smaller towns and villages there was no sort of provision made, either ly overbalance objections, numerous for the proper nursing of patients, or and obvious as they were. I was not the protection of others. The disease was apt to be looked upon as a visitadifferent as I would have had Dr. tion of Providence, which people ran

Ripley believe, to the inevitable gossip | away from it if they could, and died of I was not disappointed or surprised imagine the things that would be said. then, when Dr. Ripley told me that he could not get a nurse in Greenville for it could not weigh against my sense of love or money, and that he had telepity for a good man selfishly deserted graphed to New York with no better success. I had made up my mind from the beginning to go through with what tion to stand by him and do what I I had undertaken; and I thought mycould until more efficient help could be self prepared, more ever, for future consequences in respect to Mrs. Rand's displeasure. That she and my cousins would wholly disapprove of my action was only to be expected; and that I should have to put up with more or less unpleasantness in return was equally inevitable.

> I could not tell what shape it would take; but I hardly expected-knowing the stand my uncle had taken-that she would dare to turn me out of doors. This, however, was one of Dr. Ripley's items. He had called, as in duty bound, to explain my absence to her: and she had very distinctly commissioned him to notify me that the absence might be permanent. I was not to dare, after such utterly unheard-of and inexcusable conduct, ever to cross her threshold again. She had borne very much from me for my uncle's sake; but even my uncle would see the necessity

> er a companion for her daughters. The dector told me this very reluctantly, and tried to soften it to me with assurances of his protection and esteem, and the esteem of all right-minded and humane people in the place. 'Don't you fret about losing a home with that heartless woman, Helen. There will be a dozen open to you when this is over-take my word for it!"

> I did not fret -outwardly. I smiled, and told him I should manage somehow; I was not afraid; and yet I could not adjust myself to the fact of being cut adrift, so suddenly, from my only home and relatives, without some inward convulsions. It was not a happy home to me, and I well knew that it never would be. But it was all I had. I had longed wildly, desperately, time nd again to escape from it; but to be turned away in disgrace was another

It was not difficult to keep my vigil that first night, for I had no inclination went on, after a moment's doubtful to sleep. Bitter thoughts burned in my brain; memory was busy with the enumeration of my wrongs; I lived over all the years of my life, that seemed so long and loveless; and wondered hotly why God had given life to me only to make it despised and miserable. | MONTBEAL,

In the midst of these dreary contemplations I was startled by a groan from the sick-room. It recalled me to my self-imposed duty, and I hastened to my patient. He had waked from his uneasy sleep, parched with thirst, and cine, brought him a cold drink, straightened the bed-covers, and changed the pillows; speaking encouragingly as I did so, and meeting his worried look with a cheerful smile.

'Poor girl?' be murmured, distressfully. 'Poor Helen! you ought not to have stayed here. Why did you do it?' 'Because I wished to,' I answered promptly. 'And you are not to think anything about it. Come, now! I am your nurse. You must do just as I tell you, and the first thing is, you are not to worry about me. I shall be all

'You are a brave girl. There are DeFOREST, HARRISON & Cc. not many who would forget themselves as you are doing, Helen. But it is all wrong, and you are running a dreadful

'On the contrary, it is all right,' returned with as cheerful a smile as I 'I've come to tell you that I'll take | could summon. 'You believe in Pro- 200 200 vidence, Mr. Parkinson? Of course 200 that I was sent here this afternoon expressly for the purpose.'

'It would be comforting to think so, his face reflecting my smile in a doubtful fashion. 'Though even then it would be rough on you, poor child. | Canadian Live Stock Journa Why should Providence single you out for such a task?'

'Oh, that's asking questions; and Providence doesn't encourage idle 'Helen, are you really not afraid? which are

'And you have done it,' I exclaimed,

[To be continued]

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