A TEN SHILLING TRAGEDY

eyelids with an effort. by?" she answered.

"Fine, wumman, fine! Hae ye a light in yer fire?"

I'll hae ony coal for't. They're slippin' awa some gait. A'e ye for a draw?" "I had thochts o't."

"Come ben for yer licht, then." Granny would expect a draw for the

bargain. fingers into the embers and extracting out of Danny's cherished dottle. a live coal, set it in the bowl of his pipe. The fragrant smoke drifted to the bait.

"Hae ye had yer parritch?" she, mechanical doll.

"I've had my cogfu', gey thin," admitted Danny, reluctantly.

"Could ye scrape a pat?" "Brawly. I'm sharp-set, wumman, thae mornin's."

Granny went to the sink for the porridge-pot and brought it to Danny, the chimney-piece, and scraped till She won't cry then." Granny began to be afraid for the bottom of her pot. She was blinking all." eagerly at the pipe, but Danny feigned

not to know what was in her heart. Kathy peeped through the brambles "I'll get ma daith o' cold," moaned day meal.

"I'd best haud the pipe in tae ye're

it's no oot yet." He puffed till the thick yellow smoke flew from his lips. the smell o't in the caller air."

masel," she said.

was forced to offer him.

said civilly; "the kettle's on the bile. I could mask it in taw meenits." Danny smiled all over.

wad tak' the stour oot o' ma thrapple

"An' ye gie me a draw o' the pipe whiles ye're takin't?"

"Ou, ay! Ou, ay! Ye're welcome tae citement had passed away. a bit draw, Granny."

Danny puffed for dear life to get as but him or me'll be the waur o't some mustn't draw back," Ethel urged it left his hands. He knew the tenaoity of the old woman, who had once smoked his dottle out, a feat one would scarce have thought she had breath tempt. enough to perform.

But Granny was quite alive to this move of her adversary, and took prompt measures to checkmate it. At had poured hot water into the teapot that Danny liked his tea hot, and the door of the cottage with an aching whan it's dune, I'm dune.' it cooling under his nose; and, sure enough, with a heavy sigh and a last long-drawn inhalation, he put the pipe

shank as if she had been an Aunt Sally eyelids began to droop wearily over face is washed. You'll be rich and with a hole bored in her face. Then, her dull eyes, and to Ethel's consterna- able to buy coals. There it is—waiting! seizing her stick, she shuffled out into tion she seemed about to go to sleep Now, are you ready?" bench with the contented look in her! face that always came there when she was being fed with soup, or was watching the addition of a barrow-load of coal to her store.

Soon afterwards Danny came creeping out and sat down humbly beside her. After a short silence he ventured to say:-"Ye'll hurt, yersel', Granny, gif ye

amoke ony mair." The old woman snorted and looked straight ahead of her, puffing with the steadiness of a steam engine. Danny began to whisper gossip into herear, hoping that she might answer him and let the pipe go out; but beyond grunting softly at intervals and sucking with mechanical precision, she gave no

ign of being alive. And so peace reigned in Burnfoot, while the midst rolled up the hillside it on her shoulders. and the sun dried the withered leaves and warmed the blood in the veins of open, her eyelids blinking, and her open, her eyelids blinking, and her of terror and dismay. The dog's pro-

Granny was dozing over an empty ing at the inoffensive mill-wheel and it in through the heat of the day. The wonderful gift which God or the devil the side of the fire. Her sucking the last vestige of vapor out sound penetrated the old woman's had sent to her. Her troubled dreams of Danny's pipe, great things were on sleep instantly, and in a moment she were full of dog-fiends, and thieves, head twitched. She heaved up her their way towards her. If she had was wide awake. guessed what was in store for her, the "Ay, 'deed am I. Is't warrm oot elation of her soul over the defeat of coal," she cried. "The winter's near cheese, with prying eyes and lean, cov-

its serene expansiveness. stance, the messengers of fate, were by ?" "Ou ay; though I kenna' hoo lang not in themselves awe-inspiring, but in virtue of the deed which they had had slipped the kettle on the fire, had told Granny of the great store of resolved to do upon the body of the "you'll get some before the winter; joy that had came to him. He resolved old woman, their light-hearted ap- but what have you done with the last proach was a move of sinister impor- lot? It's not a week since you got it." tance in the game of life.

Danny arose without straightening a pair of overgrown fairies, but in it slips awa', slips awa' like snaw off a himself, and, subduing the twinkle in their faces was a prettier vehemence dyke. I'm aye fea't I'll dee in the his ounning eyes, entered Granny's than is ever seen in the tranquil atmo- cauld some nicht. There's nae warrm hospitable abode. He knew that sphere of fairyland. Blue-eyed, long-days noo. I mind days whan a fire wad legged Ethel's brows were puckered hae sca'det ye. Dinna break the gaith- his tongue in his cheek, was quietly under the hood of her scarlet cloak, light, but he meant to get something and sturdy little Katheleen's black else out of her as a make weight to the eyes burned with the intensity of the purpose that lay behind them. Poor old Granny! Disaster was marching Upon the invitation of the old lady's towards her in six-inch strides as she blink at the fire, Danny thurst callous sat in the sunshine sucking the heart

Nero, in his most amiable mood, bounded along in front of the twins. His great tongue lolled out at the side towards Granny's nostrils. She waved of his black muzzle, and the ponderous her head to and fro in it, and Danny muscles bulged under his skin as he could see that she was rising eagerly lunged up the banks or leapt around the twins like a real kitten romping in

a toy world. "Mind, Kathy," said Ethel, trying to asked, in the unexpected way peculiar frown, "it must be, this time. It's not to her. Her remarks were as expres- right that Granny should go about alsionless sometimes as those of a ways with such a dirty face. She's old enough to know better."

"W'ot if s'e kwies again, Effie?" "I don't believe it hurts grown-up people to cry. It does them good." "If it 'out tum off, w'ot'll 'oo do?"

"Oh, but it will. I'll make it. Have you got the soap and the flannel?" "Vef, an' ve baccy. Mind, I'm to give vat to Danny.'

"I know what I'll do with Granny's half-sovereign. I'll put it where she with a horn spoon. He put his pipe on can see it when we're scrubbing her, height of passion into the depth of ab-

"W'ot'll 'oo do, Ettie, if s'e dies?" "Drown myself in the quarry, that's she whined piteously.

He meant to finish off his repast with and her feelings overcame her. She Granny. a cup of tea, and Granny was keeping dashed up and began to bark in ferostood still and wept aloud. Nero the second drawing for her own mid- cious sympathy. But the power of blaws cauld on a clean skin." Ethel's will was equal to the occasion, She caught Kathy's hand and began to run. Thus, with Nero dashing on in ready," she suggested, reaching up a front and barking as if he would make I'm ower auld to fatten noo." And ed. How eagerly I watched for day trembling hand to the chimney-piece. a mouthful of the world, the expedition Granny caught up a corner of her light! Had any leaves been spared? in honor of him. At the coronation "Thenk ye," Danny interposed, debouched in a whirl of excited feeling drugget apron with an alarming snif- I gazed out of my prison window anx- it pealed forth as the emperor entered

casion of his young mistress's tears daily dole from the big house. Granny hand. No; a single leaf remained on is rung by a bellringer blessed by the "I'll gang oot by," he added; "I like bad old women rushed at her openthis cruse had failed her. The soup
There was a chance of a brief respite. bellringer does no other work, and is was the presence in the world of this never stopped to think of her plight if a topmost branch. I gave a cry of joy. mouthed as if the moment had come came and she supped it. If it didn't Perhaps that leaf would cling there for always on duty to tell of important when he must make a meal of her in- come, she went for it to Barncraig and a few hours. The storm had sighed to iquity. Granny did not know how grumbled all the way there and back rest; the air was calm; no wind would "I wadna mind a draw o' the pipe gentlemanty a dog ne was when our again. She needed so little food, and it thing is a man's life when clinging to when his majesty goes to church, and natural enemy had taken her una- of starvation ever troubled her. Coal such a hope! The jailer entered. He "Weel, if ye're roon' by the back I'll wares. The pipe dropped from her was her only anxiety. She did not smiled in a murderous fashion and with maybe see ye," was Danny's diploShe rose to her feet and advanced uncept by cutting her off from the exterger. dauntedly upon Nero with her skinny nal warmth that kept the blood liquid "I dared not turn to my breakfast, Granny felt that she had wasted her fingers extended like the claws of a in her veins. porridge on the desert air. She dis- cat. The dog stopped so suddenly in She fell asleep more than once while Suddenly a breath of air shook the sembled the wrath that was in her, haunches in the middle of the road. there was no urgency, for if she took tering through the air and I gave a his mad career, that he sank upon his Ethel fed her. It seemed to her that branch; the leaf trembled; it fell flutbut made up her mind savagely to He could not turn at once, and before long enough over the soup the little lamake Danny pay to the last suck of he recovered full control of his mind dies would forget what they had come honest English voices! The jail door and muscles the old woman's fingers to do. Ethel, too, did not hurry. The was burst open; the guards were killwere almost at his muzzle. He backed fixity of her purpose disdained pre- ed and soon I fell back into the arms "Wad ye no' like a cup o' tea," she in nervous excitement, and, having ished she whisked off her cloak and never look at a tree in autumn or at gained distance enough to turn in, stood forth in the dainty brown apron falling leaves without shuddering?" whisked round suddenly and fled as if that she wore when she washed the the devil were after him. And indeed faces of her dolls. She filled the biggranny, her mummy-like face con- gest bowl she could find with hot "Dod, wumman," he answered, "it torted with passion, mowing and water and plumped into it the beautimouthing, and threatening the crea- ful new cake of soap which Kathy had fine. I'm rael obleeged to ye for the sufficiently terrifying object to justify ture with her shrivelled claws, was a brought. his flight.

But when Ethel and Kathleen came in your mouth and eyes." running up to her, crestfallen Nero

The bargain was struck, but both on Ethel's shoulder, "that dug's no old woman tearfully. diplomats had still a moce in hand. canny. Ma stren'th's no what it was, "You promised, Granny, and you accident become blind. It seems im-

"I'm so sorry he frightened you," said Ethel soothingly. Granny's face showed a fine con-

"Him fricht me. Na, na, hinny, but I canna' thole the brute." "Go home, you bad dog," cried Ethel, ye if ye come a step nearer me!" least in the time that one of her own whose eyes were full of sad reproach, stamping her foot angrily at poor Nero, and who yet would not leave his

Granny sank into her armchair and advantage, "do you know what that struggled for breath, the whole mech- is?" She held the half-sovereign up the mother-in-law taboo began and into her eager hands, and busied him- the workings of the sinews of her lean "The mercy o' the Lord upon us, it's Granny closed her lips upon the strain and labor. Granny's bleached "And it's for you, Granny, when your peacefully in the presence of her vis- "Ye're no' cheatin' me, missie? Ye'll itors. This was disconcerting to the no tak' the bonny bit awa' again?" her face while she slept, but decided put the towl on Granny's knee." that if she could chance afterwards "I'm bocht, I'm bocht," whined the to catch sight of herself in the cracked old woman. "Hae your wull o' me.

a dead person coming to life, and cried chair and moaned, "Tell me whan a's "Ma pipe? Whaur's ma pipe?"

tan choke 'm! There was a dizzen uttered little sobbing death-cries when draws in't yet," and again Granny fell the soap strayed into her eyes or softly asleep, her head hanging over mouth, which it did often, for, between blanket over his head, remains thus sinecure mean? on one side, looking as if it might drop the half-sovereign and her outraged hideen until the danger is past. off at any moment through the snap- feelings, she could keep neither shut ping of the frail link of neck that held for more than a second at a tiem.

the old couple on the bench. Nor were head in danger of falling off, so terriford that her head in danger of falling off, so terriford tha

"Wake up, Granny!" cried Ethel, unfamiliar face and a broken heart. am the first man you ever loved?

ken what I'll dae wantin' coal. Could in the air. The twins, who were, in this in- ye no spare a hunner or twa up

"All right, Granny," said Ethel, who "Eh, me, deary me, d'ye say sae? They danced down the avenue like Weel, weel, it canna de dune yet, but But the deed was done, and while the laid.

flames leapt under the kettle, Ethel moved over to the window. "Why, Granny," she cried, "there's

heaps of coal in your shed." "Na, na, juist twa, three bitties, an' wha kens if they'll be there the morn? When it Fell the Time of Death Was at Come here tae I whisper in yer ear. I'm fear't for ma life to speak oot

Ethel danced over to her chair, and into an ear like a little pink shell Granny poured the tragic secret:-

"Danny steals me coal!" "Oh, no, no," protested Ethel, "Danny wouldn't do such a thing.' "Then whaur does it gang ?" cried the old woman triumphently.

Granny, night or day." "Ma fire! No muckle o' it gangs on me fire. But I'll catch 'im yet. He's no dune wi' me."

"Now, Granny, don't excite yourself. When you've taken this nice soup, Kathy and me are going to wash your with the leaves falling off before the the Villela has lifted up its voice. hands and face, and make you pretty breath of autumn,' I said. and clean." Granny's expression fell from the

ject despair. "I canna thole watter on ma skin."

"It'll soon be over," Ethel said, coax-

"What, with warm water?" "It's no the washin' but the win' "Nonsense, you old silly. Andrew

washes the pigs to fatten them." "Ay, maybe, but I'm no a pig, an' es until the tree was stripped and nakthrowing the sppon into the pot, and sat serenely smoking with Danny's for the moment. She poured the soup peared in the east. The tree was

mustn't splutter, or you'll get the soap

"Eh, deary me," she peghed, leaning I'm feart I'm gaun to dee," pled the

firmly,. "Eh, but I'm a' in a tremmle. It's an awfu' cauld thing dookin'." "The water's nearly boiling.

it," said Ethel. "I'll be sca'dit to daith then. Tak

coals this Christmas." "Kirs'miss? I'll ne'er see anither and out again into the cup. She knew but went and sat afar off, and watched that. I haena' a week's coal left, an'

"Well," said Ethel, sharp to see her

twins, who consulted together in whis- "No. It's yours the moment we're pers as to the possibility of washing done. Quick, Kathy, the soap! And mirror on the chimney-piece, she would ne'er thoct to be wash't tae I was probably die of fright. While they streekit." Then shutting her eyes talked, Granny woke up suddenly, like tightly, she gripped the elbows of her

The washing proceeded apace. Kath-"Danny caught it as it fell," said leen held the bowl, Ethel scrubbed at hands and face and neck. The poor "The black-hearted auld thief! Sau- old creature blinked and gasped, and

dignantly, and her head fell over still head to keep the chill out of the pores. NOTES ON FAMOUS BELLS further with a dislocating jerk. Ethel caught up the poker and began if she was clean, she was rich. While to break up the gathering coal that she slept, her fingers, plunged deep in Granny had put upon the fire to keep her great bag-pocket, played with the USES TO WHICH THEY ARE PUT IN and avarice; and the firmament Prophetic Bell of Villela-Japanese Little "Eh, mind the coal, missie, mind the seemed suddenly to crawl like a mitey Danny would have lost something of haun' an' they're maist dune. I dinna etous fingers that waved, fringe-like

And Danny hid his tobacco under the mattress of his bed, and sat by it the London Daily Graphic. When a wondering and wondering if the twins that while the fine weather lasted, he and steeples, while they perform a like would smoke down in the wood by the office, though of course in a different burnside, and when it became too cold to do that, he would bar the door and key, in the case of a national disaster, cheat Granny's keen old nostrils by Bells in England, however, have not blowing the reek up the chimney. The twins had come down like fairputting a match to the train they had

(To be continued.)

THE LAST LEAF.

Hand.

"It was during the war England waged with China that several of a boat's the nation. When the father of little crew, myself among the number, were Alfonso died, the Villela began tolltaken prisoners. We were carried to ing in the night, and tolled until morn-"Why, your fire is never out, an inland prison and thrown into cells. The second day of my confinement the jailer said to met "'You see that tree?"

"I looked out of my window. "'Yes. It is a very pretty tree "'When the last leaf falls, you will meet the first death.'

joint from joint and then to be be- ran to tell headed. How I watched that tree! How diabolical and Oriental the cruelcount the falling and to speculate upon those which remained! When a breath of air assailed the branches my heart grew heavy and my mind gloomy. When all was bright and the air calm, my mind was inspired with hope. But one night the wind blew furiously and I suffered terribly, as I saw in fancy leaf after leaf whirled from the branch-

NAVAJO MOTHERS-IN-LAW.

some of the manners and customs of "Now, Granny," she said, "you the customs of the Navajo Indians. There a man cannot under any circum-"Let me aff this ae time, deary. I'm stances speak to or even look upon in Paris are the largest bells of sweetpeople. The law must be broken reand effect, exercising an appreciable

in her daughter's marriage, but the ther-in-law do if she were absolutely what show would a man have if left unprotected to the mercy of three pureness. It is cast in E flat. or four mothers-in-law, for poly-

is warned and threatened, and, if posa rock or bush. If no way of escape is possible, the man drops down upon

He-Are you sure, darling, that Mysterious are the ways of Providence. As Granny Wilde sat scowlsoft warm hand. Granny snorted inchair, an old shawl thrown over her

That should be sufficient. She-I'm sure you're the last one.

DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

Giant-Bell of the Kremlin, Bells are and always have been ultimately associated with national as well as individual joy and sorrow, says great victory is won the bells crash forth the glad tidings from a thousbecome, like some in other countries, hoary with ages of superstition.

But Spain has a bell that is its prophet. It is its soothsayer, oracle and guide. This bell, the famous Villela, has hung for centuries in the historic castle, keeping watch over the nation. It is the most celebrated bell in Europe, its fame rests not so much upon its notes, though these are high-pitched, soft and clear; nor upon its size, for Here is a story of oriental cruelty there are other bells in Spain much related by a veteran officer of the Eng- larger, but upon its personality. The Villela is a Spanish bell that for years has foretold any impending trouble to ing light. In the ten years' Cuban war the bells struck awful tones on the nights of defeat. And when great fires have touched the castle, and sickness or insurrection threatened the throne,

The Villela has tolled again, and only a fortnight ago. It was one short, quick "The 'first death' signifies to be cut stroke. Only a few heard it, but they

THE DIREFUL TIDINGS.

ty which condemned day after day to Did it mean more disaster in Cuba! Was the war to drain the royal vaults beyond penury to debt? The Villela would not tell, but it sent out its warn-

ing note. Russia has a coronation bell, the largest in the world, and weighing 250,000 pounds. It hangs in the Kremlin, and the church, and its voice announced into a willow-pattern bowl that stood stripped of all leaves; my time had the conclusion of the ceremony to the Nero, at once concluding that the oc- ever at Granny's elbow to receive the come; the terrible 'first death' was at whole of Russia. The coronation bell events in the imperial family. He is in case of the death of a Russian monarch. The Kremlin bell tolls constant-

ly between the death and the time of the funeral. As is well known, to Russia belongs the largest unrung bell in the world. This bell now occupies a building in the Kremlin. It was cast two centuries ago, but was found too heavy to remove from the pit. The Russian monarchs, one after another, tried to have it lifted, and dozens of lives were saorificed in the shifting pit of sand. Finally fate intervened. A raging fire broke out and heated the bell in its pit. A quantity of cold water flowed around it, and a great piece, the size of a door was broken out, The Russian czar immediately ordered it to be Mothers-in-law will be interested in lifted on a pedestal and set within the Kremlin, where it is sometimes used as a temple. Its walls are two feet thick, and it is twenty-five feet high.

slinking far in the rear, Granny's ex- feelin' unco queerlik' the day, an' I his mother-in-law. Should his eye ness in the world. One of them weighs rest upon her even for a moment 35,000 pounds. The maker who cast it the superstitition is that he will by would never disclose the secret of its loud, sweet tone.

As a nation, the Japanese have the possible that such an idea should be largest bells, but the crudest. So unactually held by a large number of skillful are they, that many of them will not ring, and so they are obliterpeatedly by accident without the pay- bells made, even if cast correctly, have ment of the penalty. Yet the idea is two small hammers. Or they are made awa' that bowl. I'll whummle it ower current to-day, and is in full force to sound like tin, and the hammer does not strike roundly. One of these, the 'Granny, if you dare! You'll get no influence on the social conditions of ed. It is said to weigh comparatively little, being of some light Japanese me-The mother has no direct interest tal; but it is thirty feet across. It is used to announce births or deaths in the royal family. Its clapper is a small, interest arising from maternal love elongated affair that strikes the bell might often complicate or even make with a double sound, and the "Little impossible the usual procedure. So Giant" is easily recognised when heard. gradually grew into a fixed custom or is the largest bell in America, but not The bell of Notre Dame in Montreal law. What harm could an irate moprohibited from speaking to her daugh- chimes in New York, which is surpassing in delicacy and penetrating in its

The countries of Turkey, Greece, Itgamy is commonly practised in the bells. Bells are not in good repute there, from the fact that criminals wear The complications brought about by strung with the neck, and lepers are this peculiar condition are many and high priests decorate their robes with ample, is very awkward to both. If other Indians are present, frantic warning to hide himself are shouted to the mon. In Turkey they are conspicuous man, and if he is on horseback he will by unpopular; indeed, that country is strike out as if for his life. The woman the only one that positively forbids the

INFORMATION.

Upguardson-What does this word

A FIGURE OF SPEECH. He-What's the matter, my dear? She-I'm speechless with anger. Then she talked a blue streak for fifteen minutes.

THE FARM

ABOUT THE ORCHARD In farming probably no other is so sadiy neglected and so si cared for, or not cared for, a orchard. In going about the q on every hand one sees orchan ing every indication that the expected that all he had to d plant the tree, and after that i care fot itself, and supply him fully with fruit. The result ca owner to affirm that orchard failure. The majority of the of these neglected orchards w think of planting any other leave it to care for itself, a should they expect it of the business of any description ca self and pay a dividend. We will assume in the first

an orchard has been properly out in suitable soil which well fitted in every respect. tail about the care of it shou ducted in such a manner as the least expense and at the have everything done well. we would use such implemen do the work rapidly and ground as nearly level as p with the surface well pulve the better condition the soil better it will endure dry w the more readily will the fi of the tree take up and whatever of plant food the soil. The cultivation sho shallow as possible and do plow except when necessar ing under some crop for gr We like to have a good once a week to ten days f the soil is in fit condition ed in the spring until th July or August. Then the be given an opportunity t wood and set buds for a of fruitage. An orchard too late in the season, es weather be moist during will have tender branch be liable to be damaged ! ter weather. The object is not so much for keepin as to keep the surface fi a mulch for retaining a moisture. One who cultivates

should be a careful ma can be bruised in root of out injury. Of course t be a steady one. If on not neglect to fertilize must expect to receive nothing. No crop to good fertilization fruit, and the better th the better will be t larger the quantity of been shown by experi fruit of the apple tre times as much potash more than four times phoric acid, and that nitrogen in the laves the quantity of potas as great as the phosp fore potash and nitro plied in abundance. prefer to supply the of kainst because it insects and grubs in amount used should times as much as in ate or sulphate. Po firmness, flavor and fruit and for an orch 1,000 pountls per ac sulphate can be use half that amount of the latter adds o Nitrogen is essentia the fruit tree and I plying the nitrog under some green clover or cow peas. trate of soda is form. We consider crimon clover and would be found be pecks of oats to clover thus giving will be a protection freezing and thaw ter and early spr clover tops for ni over \$10 per acre worth over half is furnished at sn eight quarts of se acre and can be per bushel. If mixed fertilizer taining 10 to 12 seven to nine ph to three of ni amount per acre and condition of Pruning shou tended to from

is planted. If planted as we back the entire two to two and bhe peach and the pear or app the trees will shoots of which should be rubbe that no injury tree will give it remaining one leave more that to form the he object to summ lieve in and should be ca whenever a sho wanted it shouling off with the no wound of co and no sucker larger wound. a branch of m great a shock cases when it blight or acc fire blight occ the blight to wound with and burn the to it that the not left so de