

A HARD BARGAIN.

By Walter Besant.

It was on the fighting against it, I believe the villain must have been detected...

I was quite crushed by this blow. For the first time I felt tempted to commit suicide...

Then began a week of cruel suffering. My master sent me word by Boule-de-neige...

He drank brandy now. He drank it morning, noon and night. He drank it, not because he liked it, but in hopes of dispatching me...

First I saw all over again the scenes of my early life—my poor, deserted mother; the tramp who took charge of me...

"What have you got to say to me, detestable wretch?" I cried, shaking my fist in his unshaven old face.

"I know a good deal, tell me yours," he said. "I know a good deal, tell me yours."

"I was two days before the period allotted to me by my master, at 8 o'clock in the evening, as I was sitting in my lonely cottage...

"This is no mere delirium of the old man," I said to myself. "It is a warning; at least, I must try to bear it with resignation."

"To my astonishment nothing more followed. The tumult of my system gradually subsided and I fell asleep."

"I mechanically went to the cupboard and pulled out my old mutton and potatoes. Who can picture my joy when I found that I could taste the most agreeable of all things, my old mutton and potatoes."

"I went to the nearest office shop and ordered bacon, eggs and fat, offering a short gratuity with every plate as it came. And then, because I felt sure that my old mutton and potatoes must be dead, I repaired to my lawyer's and saw the clerk."

"What did he do of—too much eating and drinking?" said the clerk sternly. "This is not the tone for you to adopt toward that distinguished man, your benefactor."

"I started, but said nothing. 'I have a recommendation to make to you on the part of our departed friend, Mr. Ebenezer Grumblewool. It is dated a few weeks since, and is to the effect that a sum of money which I hold was to be placed in your hands in case of his death. This, it appears, he anticipated, for some reason or other.'

"Ebenezer Grumblewool? That was the name which he had long used for his secretary—Ebenezer Grumblewool."

"My poor friend," the lawyer went on, "after remarking that unless you change your unfortunate habits you will come to good, gave me this money himself—here is the check—amounting to \$250,000, \$500 or \$1,000, as you like."

"Well, sir," he looked at me in some surprise. "Have you any observation to make, or remark to offer, on this generosity?"

"None," I said. "I do not know—your signature here, if you please—what reason Mr. Grumblewool had in taking you up, or what claim you possessed upon his consideration; but I think, sir, I do think, that will perhaps, some sense of regret, is due."

"It was as a philanthropist, as a supporter of charities, as a public donor of great amounts, Mr. Grumblewool's name in the front. So much we all know."

"A religious man, too?" "Surely, surely; one of our most deeply religious men—a man who was not ashamed of his saintly profession."

"It was the familiar face of Boule-de-neige that I had to look at. To look at Boule-de-neige was to look at the face of a man who was not ashamed of his saintly profession."

"I bowed again and retired. Did any one ever hear of such a wicked old man?"

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GENERAL AND SPORTING NEWS.

Joe Aston, wrestler, is recovering, and Arthur Chambers will match him to wrestle Tom Cannon or anybody else for \$250, \$500 or \$1,000, as you like.

The superiority of Mather Gave's Worm Ejectant is shown by its good effects on the children. Purchase a bottle and give it a trial.

New Orleans has a brass band of fourteen members that are all new boys. It is said that owing to illness the Emperor of China's marriage will be postponed for two years.

Curse cause intolerable pain. It is a cure for Curd's Cure removes the trouble. Try it and see what an amount of pain is saved.

Lord Doncaster was not the first British peer to die of hydrophobia. The Duke of Richmond also died of the same disease. The four children of Dr. W.A. Gaddon, of Chester, Ill., were born in different years, but the birthday of each falls upon July 22.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria. They had a pumpkin on show at Titusville, Fla., recently, that had a girth of seven feet two inches, and weighed 136 pounds.

William Mitchell, of Baetica, Ill., is paying 1 cent per head each day for the privilege of watering his stock at a spring on a neighbor's farm.

Use Eureka pile cure for piles. Sure cures. Ask your druggist for it. A new bridge across the Tiber at Rome is to be named in honor of Garibaldi.

A farmer near Kenton, Tenn., put up a barrel of vinegar about a year ago and it kept it tight. Last week he opened the barrel and found a swarm of yellow jackets inside.

Joseph Ryan, Percy, writes:—"I was induced to try Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil for a lameness which troubled me for three or four years, and I found it the best article I ever tried. It has been great blessing to me."

An East Texas, Mich., man killed his wife about and killed her canary because she would not say he was a brute. He then killed the dog because it would not eat the canary.

Frank Purdy and David Sherman, Indian printer boys at Genoa, Neb., Indian school, are trying to raise \$250 for a small printing outfit with which to issue a paper from that school, called the Pipe of Peace. Their subscription is indorsed by the superintendent of the school.

Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Dysentery Cordial is prepared from drugs known to the profession as thoroughly reliable for the cure of cholera, dysentery, diarrhoea, griping, and all other ailments of the bowels.

Another level-headed druggist said harmless colored water for violet in Paris the other day to an excited woman, who immediately proceeded to fling the innocuous liquid in the faces of two persons who she desired to destroy.

It is not generally known that in Ethiopia a people numbering 200,000 have the old-fashioned strictly to the Mosaic ceremonies and laws. They are the children of Hebrew immigrants who in the time of the great dispersion settled in Abyssinia and married wives of that nation.

When baby was sick, we gave her Castoria. When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria. When she had children, she gave them Castoria.

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NASAL BALM. Osmunda, Dixon, P. O., Ont. My wife suffered for five years with that distressing disease, catarrh.

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