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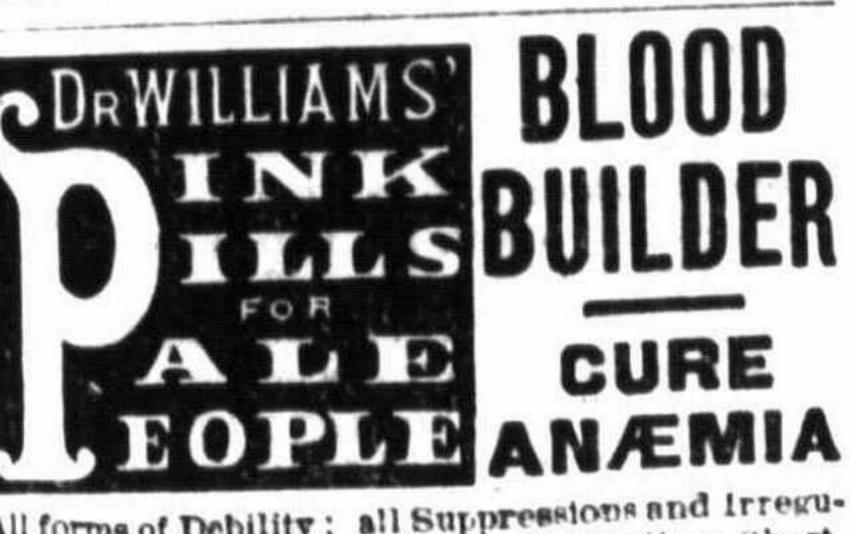
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By THEO. GIFT.

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We are all gathering cherries in the orchard this morning-we, meaning George, Dollie and I, bien entendus. Above our head a light green tapestry of leaves rustles softly in the fresh breeze, and the countless scarlet, shin. ing, translucent balls glisten ruby like in the sunshine, against a sky all glorious ccbalt blue, and piled up masses of white. Under our feet is the short, sweet grass, green as emerald, and starred with golden, wide lipped buttercups. George and I spring and stretch and clutch at the ripe fruit, while little Dollie sits on the grass and laughs as the crimson showers rattle into the deep basket prepared for them. George's one idea now is soldiering.

"Oh, Miss Leslie," he cries, his left check perilously distended by an unusually big "black heart," "don't you wish you were a soldier, like Cousin Carrf" (Capt. Glyn is a cousin of the Peverils, so my pupils have adopted him.) "It would be so jolly. You could dress up like a man, you know. Bill Stumpkins, the blacksmith's son at Chorley, went for a drummer boy, and had his leg blown right off by a bullet, you know, and jacket and trousers. Bill is no biggerer than you 'cepting about here, you know"-clasping my waist with two purple stained, sticky

hands. "You goes in there, you know, and gets lickler than me; but Bill"-"Yes, I fear Bill's jacket would have to be slightly taken in at the waist," says a laughing voice; and turning round, I see Capt, Glyn leaning against the trunk of c. cherry



"I see Capt. Glyn leaning against the trunk of a cherry tree.

ment. It is very odd, but, like "Annie's little lamb" in the nursery song, "wheresoe'er the 'children' are that 'soldier's' sure to follow." I suppose I ought to object to it; but I don't. I like Carr Glyn, and I like being near him, looking at him and listening to his light, daring talk. think he likes me, too; he always tries to draw me into the conversation, and yesterday evening he gave Georgie a little bunch of wild harebells to give to me. I shouldn't have thought much of that; but later, when Mrs. Peveril asked him if he had enjoyed a picnic to which he had gone with the Gore-Langtons, he said it was "beastly stupid," and that the only pleasant five minutes in the day were when he got away from all those over dressed girls into a little copse full of harebells, and thought of the vicarage and its inhabitants. Mrs. Peveril said: "Now, Carr, there's a pretty compliment to your old cousin!" and then he looked at me-such a saucy, merry look! I wonder if he saw the harebells in my belt.

Now, while I am blushing furiously at his sudden appearance, he says, as calmly as pos-

"Well, Miss Leslie, what do you say to George's proposition? I shall second it most heartily, provided you promise to enlist in my regiment. I don't think I could suffer you to appear in any other; against regimental rules, you know."

"Capt. Glyn," say I primly, and stripping the cherries vigorously from a long, slender bough, "if you were more used to children, you would know that they never talk anything but nonsense--George especially."

"Why, Miss Leslie, you know you told me there's nothing you'd like better than to have crossed the Prah with Cousin Carr, if you been a man," cries George, "Carr, do ask Mrs. Stumpkins about the jacket; she'll do it for you. Our Emily put it on for fun on Wednesday when we went about the washings. Mrs. Stampkins's our washerwoman, you know; and she hadn't sent home one of Miss Leslie's stockings, and'-"George!" a shrick of deprecation drowned

in a ringing laugh from Carr Glyn. "Well, Emily said it was yours, Miss Les-

lie. But what 'ould you do about you hair? Cousin Carr's is short." "Yes," says Capt. Glyn, persisting in en-

couraging George's volubility. "I am afraid I should have to cut off some of those auburn tresses. Regimental fules, you know."

"Aunt Emma takes hers off at nights," puts in George confidentially. "That's much nicer. Emily says she buys all her hair in London; but Miss Leslie hasn't but we fail to see why the editor of the got money enough. She's too poor, you know. Isn't it a pity she's so poor! When ferer. Better luck next time, old fellow. I'm a man I'm going to marry her and give Ler all my"---

How much further George would have run on within the protection of Capt. Glyn's arms and Capt. Glyn's mocking eyes is uncertain, for at this moment Dollie, who has been sitting quietly on the grass at my feet, stuffing cherries into her little pink mouth, sets up such a doleful roar that it drowns all else, and I forget George in snatching her up in my arms and asking anxiously is she hurt. "What is it, my darling?"

"Don't do away, Lelly. Tay wis me an' papa. Me don't want oo do away." Dollie sobbed between every roar, and with fat arms clasped round my neck as I carry her away toward the house. Some one stops us before we reach it-some one whose study window looks out on the orchard-and asks: "What has happened? Is my little girl

"Lelly doin' away, papa," cries Dollie, still holding me with one band while she stretches the other to her father: "Cuthin Carr's doin' to take her away wis him. Tell

Lelly not to do." "It is some nonsense of George's," I put in hurriedly, almost crossly; but why should my ridiculous face grow so red, and why are children so irrational? "He wanted me to be a soldier, and Dollie took it in earnest. Dollie, how can you be so silly?"

But my master takes the little goosey in his arms, and does not laugh as I think he might. On the contrary, there is a strange look, balf sad, have severe, as he says:

"Don't scold Dollie because her love for you makes her selfish, Miss Leslie. We older ones might give you 'God speed' aloud if you were to go from us; but I am afraid we

should all cry out terribly in private." I think it is about this time that things begin to go wrong; not very wrong-in such a peaceful place as Byssham vicarage that be virtually impossible—but just

enough wrong to be different from usual; aini the worst of it is that there is no earthly cause for it, and that every one seems equally to blame, except Capt. Glyn-I must say that. He does nothing, poor fellow! except be brighter and more pleasant day by day; but for the rest of us-well, for me, I may as well begin with my own faults-there is something decidedly out of joint. I seem always in a hurry and a fidget now. George's spelling is tedious, and Dollie's A B C wearing, My clothes won't go on as easily as usual, and my bair takes an immense time "doing." George twice tells me I am "cross," and I tell him he is naughty, and we have words on the 'subject; while Dollie,' instead of sticking to me as usual like a little leech, slips away to nurse, and says in seif defense when sought for, "Lelly nebber tell me tories now," But how can I tell stories when I am listening to those terrible ones of Carr Glyn's Ashantou

adventuresf I think he is nice and yet somehow I don't feel particularly happy; in fact, sometimes I don't feel happy at all. For one thing, Mrs. Peveril is cross, very cross. She has snubbed me more than once before Carr, and is always pouncing on me at odd intervals as if in the hope of finding me idle. am afraid I am rather idle of late. Twice have quite forgotten Dollie in the garden, and once I let George get up to his knees in a muddy ditch because I was listening to something Capt. Glyn (he had joined us in our walk) was telling me. Of course it was very careless and neglectful, but I never did so angry or say such unpleasant things. Am I Trom Let any mediate passage \$35. to blame because this gallant, sunny hearted

young soldier likes to be with met No oneelse does except the children. I should be louely enough otherwise. Even my master never comes near me now, but has taken to almost living in the library; and though he

once interposes to rescue me from one of Mrs. Peveril's lectures, it is done in a way which shows me he thinks me quite as much to blame as she does. He looks terribly ill, it is true; and yet when I once ask him (timidly, for his manner is so altered) if he is unwell, he says "No," very shortly; then comes back, apologizes for his abruptness, and goes quickly away before I can speak. Indeed, l hardly see him at all now, and he seldom speaks to me even when we meet. It is very strange. Sometimes I feel almost inclined to cry about it; he used to be so kind, so wondrously kind and gentle. And even now he is not unkind, for often I find the very little duties I have been neglecting lightened for me, and that papa has taken out the children for their afternoon walk, so that I am free to amuse myself as I list and "look melancholy" over my freedom, as Capt. Glyn says when he suddenly overtakes me in my solitary con-

stitutional. "Mr. Clifford has taken the children," say pettishly

"And are not you thankful? I should have thought you would be delighted to get rid of the little plagues. Why, they are always plastered to your side."

"Indeed they are not," I cry. "They used to be, but now they are quite-quite glad to go to their papa. It is very"--- and here I choke and try to wink away something misty in my eyes.

"And you are jealous!" exclaims Carr. "Jealous about a couple of thresome brats! A wish to heaven I were in their shoes for one half hour. Why, you ought to bless old Chiford for his paternal affection."

He is not so old," I say resentfully. "He is only 41." "And therefore old in comparison with my-

self of 25 and you of 21." "How do you know my age?" "George told me. Please don't look so indignant. I can't help your papil's confidences. But I must say I was glad to hear it."

"I must say I can't guess why!" "After that solemn age a young lady is out of leading strings, and is free to be as unworldly and happy as she pleases. I like

To be continued.

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Genuine Hard Luck In the shooting match the other day at Cobourg, the editor of the World won the position to which was assigned as a prize a year's subscription to his own paper. would have been bad euough for any onelse to have won the prize, but surely it was the extreme irony of fate for it to fall to the lot of its editor. Now if he had won a \$10 bill, a barrel of flour, or a ton of coal, there would have been some sense in competingbut to be compelled to take his own medicine, which is said to be something the saw. bones never does. This a judgment on the Cobourg rifle association for its selfishness, World should be selected as the chief suf-

A Little Girl's Bravery.

Georgia, the nine-year-old daughter of G. T. Williams, of Parsons, Kan., saved the life of her baby brother the other night by her remarkable nerve and presence of mird. During the temporary absence of her parents a burning lamp fell into the crib upon the sleeping child, and Georgia, the only one present, instantly secured a blanket from an adjoining room, and pulled the baby from the blazing crib and smothered the fire out of its clothes. She carried it into the gard, and she then turned her attention to the fire inside the room and beat it out with a piece of carpet. The crib and carpet were destroyed, but the girl and baby were not much burned,-Chicago Herald.

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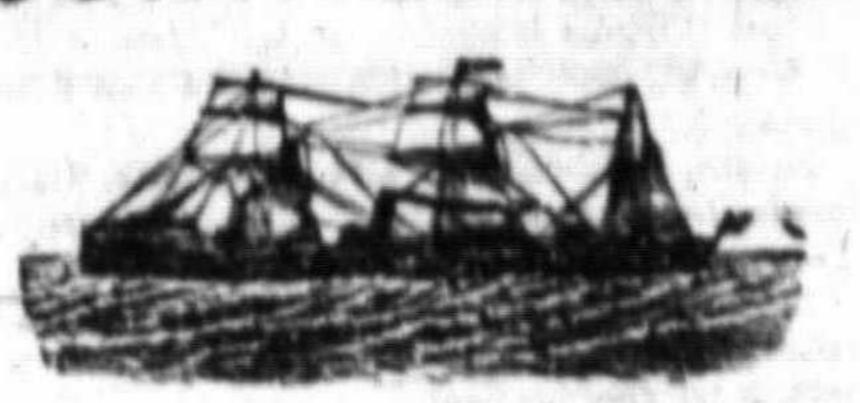
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