

something even dearer. Anyhow, she pined for the heather braes, and the doctor sent her back to them lest she should see them no more. They gave her new life and they enchained her with the fascinations of centuries. The little mountain bird would not, could not return to the tropics; even when her husband retired from the army, and took his daughters to the lovely nook he discovered in New Zealand, she lingered;—then she suddenly learned that every turf had been alienated long ago by her wild dead father, and she winged away to far Akaroa.

She found a beautiful romantic home; she

"My relations were all dead, I had not a friend in New Zealand. The little girls became fond of me, and were so easily taught; and he—he was grateful and kind always. For a long time I thought he was a widower; but one day—I had just been thrown from horseback—he told me, and we could not part; but I am glad to be dying. Ah! God knows it all, and now you know!"

The older woman broke down.

"Mabel," she said, "I should be glad to die instead of you!"

And they kissed each other.

Every morning a bending figure walked to



EVERY MORNING FOR MONTHS.

found her three girls tall and blooming; she found her soldier-husband handsomer than ever; she found a lady—with lineage lofty as her own—pale, gentle, and very sad.

Then were cyclones, and then the strangest calm.

Day by day the pale lady faded and drooped, the man's hair whitened, and the Highland chieftainess thought many thoughts.

Ere long, in the hush of a little chamber, one woman awaited the signet of everlasting peace; while the other tended her, holding the wasted fingers, listening to the murmured breathing:

the grave in the valley, to spend hours on the bench he had constructed by its side; every morning for months. Then the bench was taken away that he might lie below, even as his testament ordained,

Flowers were planted there—and there.

But life has to be faced by those who live, and better chances offered in Christchurch for the benefit of the girls. So they removed, to struggle valiantly, and to find that the battle is long and hard to womankind. They struggle still, valiant as ever; each daughter in her own sphere; each enshrining the little mother as another Princess of Thule.