

all that his present state was directly owing to the influence of the curse. Anxiety must have caused that sudden and mysterious illness which has left his mind a wreck. She thought of him happy and light-hearted as she had first seen him. Had he stayed in that foreign country to which an honest impulse had driven him, he would not now stand blighted in his prime. It was she who had brought him into danger, she who had kept him under the cloud; and now she must send him away from her, so that his troubles might come to an end. It was only a poor comfort to her to know that it would cost him no pang if he were never to see her again. Of her own future she did not dare to think.

Miss Martha's thoughts on the subject were very different. The old lady did not quite believe in the story of Paul's loss of memory, and suspected that Katherine had bewitched him, and that he had chosen to stay at Camlough. She had not, however, the heart to thrust such opinion upon May. If the child believed him mad, why let her believe so?

Meanwhile Bid had arrived home on the eve of a day of affliction. People were passing from one cabin to another, saying sad farewells, and mourning together over the woe that was come among them. The Kearneys were carrying their small possessions into a cave under a cliff, where they intended to live till they could sell their pig and their little bits of furniture. With the few pounds that such sale would bring they must start by and by, a sad and timid band of wanderers, to seek their fortunes or misfortunes in some unknown and dreaded town. Some others were doing likewise, thanking God as they worked, that things were not worse with them.

"Sure it's the summer sky we have over our heads," said one. "If a body must sleep on the grass, it's good to have it dhry."

"You say well," said another; "we're better off nor the old people—heavens be their bed! What debate could me an' the baby make if the snow was blindin' our eyes, and freezin' our hearts."

"The Lord wouldn't let that happen twicet," said a third.

But there were others who could not make an effort to be cheerful; the people who had their sick and their dying to provide for. What could Tim's old father and little Bride's crippled grandmother do but die on the side of the hill? There was patient Norah in the last stage of consumption, and there was a mother of many children who had been bedridden for years. The children clung to their mother, who could not move, and moaned over the horror which the morrow was to bring to them; and the woman with the sick daughter sat with her arms round her dying child, and prayed with frantic earnestness that God would take her home before the cruel hour should come. Sympathising sufferers passed in and out of the cabins, and wept a little with one and wept a little with another; while each would rebuke her neighbour for the despair which she felt herself.

Bundles were packed, and Sunday clothes put on. In most cases where there was a strong healthy father or brother, he had gone away already to look for work in the nearest town, or in some other part of the country. Those who were to begin their journey were all the weak, if not the helpless. People were dressed already for their travel; for there was no thought of sleeping on that last ever-to-be-remembered night before they left the homes that had sheltered them, never to see them more. They kept walking about visiting each other all the short summer night; sitting around the fires for the few dark chill hours talking over their past, or trying to predict the future. Con sat by the fire in the Kearney's cabin, his face dark with gloom, his hands clasping his knees under his chin, his eyes rolling from the red hearth to Nan, and from Nan back to the hearth. The girl was busy meanwhile, making jackets for the little brothers, and cloaks for the small half-naked sisters, out of every rag of stuff she could find, including the bed-clothes. The little ones sat around her, awed into unusual hush, and watching every stitch with the eyes of frightened rabbits.

"God help ye!" said a visiting neighbour, "but ye're the long wake family!"

Nan threw her head back, and stifled a groan.

"Misther Paul, Misther Paul!" she said, "thin why did you desave me?"

"Arrab whist!" said the neighbour. "could be carcumvint the devil?"

"Mick! the daylight's c'min'. Will you run and thry if you can see a sight o' Bid?"

The neighbour went out sighing.

"Well, well, well! but the obstinate hope is in that girl!"

"She ought to be ha' come back," said Nan; "she ought to ha' come back."

Here Bid and the house-mother entered the cabin together. The old woman had been detained, condoling and helping in many houses on her way.

"Well!" cried Nan, springing to her feet, and dropping her work.

"The curse is down on Paul," said Bid solemnly; "ye have ne'er a wan to look at but the Lord!"

Nan crouched on the floor, and buried her face in her gown.

"Get up girl, get up! There's worse off nor you. Ye've all got yer feet andher ye, an' young blood in yer veins."

"Young enough!" wailed Nan, as a toddling child tumbled into her lap.

"Ye'll make yer mother break down," said Bid. "I looked for better things from ye. Ye haven't the sick and the dyin' to take on yer shoulders. Get up now, and be a woman, Nan Kearney; an' I'll show ye Kate Daly, that can't stir, an' her seven little girlsreens all cryin' round her bed."

(To be Continued.)

A clear head is indicative of good health and regular habits. When the body feels heavy and languid, and the mind works sluggishly, Ayer's Cathartic Pills will wonderfully assist to a recovery of physical buoyancy and mental vigour. The constipated should use them.

PRESENTATION TO MAJOR SCULLY.

(Napier Telegraph, November 27.)

In the old Council Chambers at noon to-day, in the presence of Messrs. Colenso, Tiffen, Cornford, R. D. McLean, Twigg, J. Heslop, F. Sutton, J. A. Smith, Banner, Liddle, J. Sidey, Conroy, Cohen, Duncan, Begg, Sheath, Lee, Bowerman, St. Clair, Birch, Swan, Mayo, Turley, Gow, Knowles, Ormond, Caulton, the Rev. D. Sidey, and others, Major Scully was presented with a bag of over 300 sovereigns subscribed by the public of Hawke's Bay, as a mark of their appreciation of his valuable services when head of the police force of the district. Mr. Ormond was voted to the chair.

The chairman said he had much pleasure in taking the chair, when they had met to present their old friend, Major Scully, with a testimonial. The small gift was an evidence of the appreciation they had for his past services to them and to their district, during the many years which he had been in the responsible position he had occupied as chief of the police. It would be satisfactory to Major Scully, as it conveyed the knowledge that a large number of the settlers of all classes, and of all shades of opinion had joined in the testimonial. He would receive it, as it came to him, as an evidence that they desired to show their appreciation of the services rendered by him in the past. He (the chairman) was specially thankful of being put in position to present the testimonial, as in the past he was the superintendent of the province, the head of the executive, of which Major Scully was an official, and, therefore, he (the chairman) had as good, if not a better knowledge than anyone else could have, of the services rendered by Major Scully. As head of the police he never forgot that he was one of the settlers, and while doing his duty did it in the least unpleasant way possible, which of itself was a great qualification on the part of an officer holding such a position. He would refer to the times, which a great many of the settlers before him would remember, when they had not the quiet easy going times they now had, when Major Scully was at the head of the police force, and when a deal of danger attended the position. He referred to the days of native difficulties, and being head of the executive, he knew that at any time, night or day, Major Scully when called upon was ready, and the work was faithfully and satisfactorily done. On such an occasion it was reasonable for him to refer in such terms and call back to mind the services Major Scully had done for them in the past. He could not help saying that he—and he was quite sure his opinion was shared by a great majority of the people—regretted they were parting with the services of Major Scully. To his mind an officer like him, who had done faithful service in the past, should have received every possible consideration from the Government, and been retained as long as his services could have been useful to the community. He believed the bulk of the settlers of Hawke's Bay thought that he might have been continued in the position he had held with satisfaction to the settlers and credit to himself for many years to come. He therefore regretted it was thought proper by the Government that those duties required a younger man to perform them. He could not allow the opportunity to pass without expressing that regret, which he knew was shared by the bulk of the settlers. It remained for him to make the presentation of the purse of three hundred and thirteen sovereigns, and to express most sincerely and heartily the hope that Major Scully's declining years would be spent in comfort, prosperity and peace.

Major Scully, in reply, said he felt that he was not able to say anything in consequence of the generous way in which the public had treated him that day, as well as all the time he had been amongst them. He could not find words, nor had he the ability to speak such words, as would convey to them the gratitude he felt, for what had been done for him. He hoped the community would prosper, would continue to prosper as it had done hitherto. He thanked the public for their generosity to him. Hitherto they had done more for him in their consideration, in their kindness, which to him had been far more than all the money in the world. The feeling that was displayed when the Government talked of moving him was five thousand times more than he expected. The public came forward in a manner that he never expected would have been shown to a person of greater abilities and more faithful services than he had ever given. He had only one thing to regret, that he could not impart his feelings to the public, which was unfortunate for him. He hoped they would excuse him; it was not a fault of his, it was the feeling of gratitude which prevented him saying all he ought. He wished them all every happiness in their families that the Almighty could prosper them with.

Cheers for Major Scully and a vote of thanks to the chair brought the proceedings to a close.

His Holiness Leo XIII. has just sent forty thousand francs to his Eminence Cardinal Celesia, Archbishop of Palermo, for distribution among the poor who are suffering from the ravages of cholera.

The fact that Carter and Co., of George street, are the only Drapers in Dunedin doing a strictly Cash Trade, who import their own Goods direct from Home Markets, is the one cause of their being able to sell cheaper than any other firm. Carter and Co. have just opened, ex s.s. Coptic and Kaikoura, 16 cases Men's and Boys' Clothing, and in consequence of the desperate scarcity of Ready Money, they have decided to offer the whole lot, for a few weeks, at landed cost. Therefore, call, inspect, and judge for yourself. Carter and Co., 60 and 62 George street, Dunedin.

One curious revelation of the last American census was the growth of the female population of the large cities. It was shown that New York contains about 25,000 more women than men; Boston had a surplus of 18,000 women; in Baltimore there are 17,005 more women than men, and so on in several other of the large Eastern cities. Fifty years ago it was the men who came to the cities to pursue their careers, while the women stayed at home; but more recently women, both in this country and Europe, have been crowding to the business centres.—*True Witness.*