CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.

"But surely you do not believe in any future state for him? He has no soul——"

"Not as we have, I grant you; yet so good a man as John Wesley believed implicitly in the future state of animals—'they, too,' he said, 'are immortal.' And why not—why not? If I am made happier here by the wealth of love in this little breast, shall I be happier there missing it? Isn't Heaven large enough to hold all this fidelity and nobleness of heart? Shall we place bounds to God's goodness?"—he paused abruptly; by a lighthing's flash of intuition the reason of their coming was made clear to him. A wave of color surged into his face.

"I said something like this to little Tony Dana yesterday," he added simply.

"The whole town knows it, the whole town is shocked by it. Your motive was undoubtedly prompted by kindness, but it was ill-advised—it was begging the question. It was comforting the boy at the expense of his spiritual welfare——"

"Stop!" thundered Parson Medlicott; "it was no such thing. He came to me in great distress and I helped him as far as lay in my power. People laugh at and minimize the sorrows of childhood, but they are often as hard to bear as those which are fitted upon older shoulders. Besides, this was no trifling sorrow, it was real grief, such as would have laid my own heart bare had it befallen me. Tony had lost a friend, tho you and others say he was only a dog."

"Admitted that the boy suffered," Mr. Loring interposed shrilly, "but that was no reason why you should give him the impression you did. It was pernicious—there is no other word! It pains me, sir, to take this stand against one whom for years I have deeply admired, but I——"

The minister pushed back his chair and rose to his feet, cutting short the other's eloquence; without a word of apology he crossed the room. Four pairs of wondering eyes were turned upod him as he opened the door of the cabinet above the mantel and took out a small vase, then he returned to the table carrying it carefully against his breast. It was a bit of Salviati glass that had been brought him from Venice by a parishioner, and all Broadmeadows had laughed at the incongruity of the gift. He held it close to the lamp, letting the light accentuate the exquisite shape with its delicate coloring of rose and green and amber and the gleaming incrustations of gold. For the moment he seemed oblivious to his guests, who looked first at him as if they doubted his sanity and then at one another in corroboration of the theory.

"Beautiful," he murmured half aloud, "beautiful, and yet the slightest jar would shiver it to atoms." He raised his head and regarded his companions with something like sternness in his benignant face. "It is not so beautiful as a child's faith, nor so frail. If I break this I am accountable to no one but myself—it is my own. If I break the other by whom shall I stand arraigned? What can I say in excuse of my stewardship? You do not think it foolish in me because, knowing how brittle this bit of glass is, I put it out of harm's way, do you? That is all I did with Tony Dana's faith. I put it into the hands of God for safe keeping, out of the reach of a doubt that might have crushed it irreparably." He shook back his hair, a slow smile gathering in his eyes. "I know no more than Tony in this matter, friends; we are both of us little children trusting a Father's love."

He restored the vase to its shelf, then he came back to his chair and stood looking down gravely.

"They say no two persons see the same thing exactly alike," he went on after an appreciable interval; "it's what each brings to the seeing, I think, as well as the angle of vision, that makes the difference. And we all have our ideas of heaven—you yours, I mine; twould be folly to quarrel about 'em. For myself, it is not so much the golden streets that I hope to see as it is the flowers—such flowers as I have known here, the little common ones that make a glory of wayside and gardens—and the faces of my friends, not one alone, but all." He stopped as he spoke and touched the dog fondly, then he raised his head and looked directly at his judges.

"I was not quite honest when I brought John Wesley's name into this discussion," he said with a slow flush. "It is true I hoped to impress you and disarm criticism because a worthier man than I had had the courage to express his convictions, heedless of the world's approval. I—I beg your pardon and his as well. What are John Wesley, Kingsley and the rest of those fearless thinkers to me? I am willing to stand alone in this matter without the support of any man, living or dead, and I ask no one to share this belief with me."

"This is sadly unorthodox," murmured Mr. Loring, while his companions sat with downcast eyes, blind to his mute appeal for support: "sadly. It was partly because of these—ah!—these views of yours that we are here to-night. You cannot imagine the consternation they have caused throughout the town."

The parson let his glance stray for a momnt to the thrilling romance upon the table and from it to the excited face opposite. "I'm sorry," he said gently, "but I cannot change 'em."

"Mr. Loring is right in saying they have disturbed us," Squire Poindexter hastened to bridge over the awkward pause. "Our visit, however, is due to another project. It has occurred to us, sir, that at your advanced age your duties must be very arduous, and we have concluded you need an assistant—"

"Eh!" interrupted the parson slowly, "eh!"

"We should still want an occasional sermon from you, and I suppose our young folks wouldn't think they were properly married unless you did the coupling. There'd be demands enough on your time once we made you pastor emeritus, but the burden of the labor would be lifted to other shoulders."

"It's to spare you, sir," little Mr. Loring chimed in, "what——"

"I don't want to be spared," Parson Medlicott cried hotly; I haven't complained, have I? There's mettle still in the old man, and ink enough in the inkstand for new sermons; when they give out I've a barrel full of old ones—what's worth hearing once is worth hearing again. You needn't fear I'd fail you."

"Tut, tut! we've implicit confidence in your abilities, and tho at times we think you over-tolerant we know it's your nature to hate sin and yet love the sinner and to be ready to pardon every incompetency; still it has been deemed wisest to have a younger man to co-operate with you. We have taken no definite steps, hoping you might indicate some one——"

"I—I will serve you, but for the moment I cannot think."

"Oh, as to that, it's all in the air at present; a few weeks hence will do."

The men rose with evident relief and prepared to go.

"You must take more care of yourself, dominie," the doctor blustered with an attempt at cheeriness; "jaunts over to Little Silver to see old Betsy Fleming are out of the question. I saw you there this afternoon. She's good for a number of years, so the next time she sends for you, don't humor her. It's too far—you must be very tired."

"Ye-es, I am tired. I had not thought of it before."

"You'll like this idea of an assistant once you're used to it. It's a good thing to rest with folded hands after one's work is done. A few years hence I shall look about for a successor myself——"

"Do so, sir, do so, before you hear the word that puts you without the door."

"Dominie—parson!"

"There, there, forget it all. The old man is bitter and peevish; bear with him, friends. Yes, yes, you're right abont a new hand at the helm—we'll talk of it again, and soon. It will be better so—better so."

He followed them into the hall while Mr. Loring explained at length the duties of a pastor emeritus and Squire Poindexter expatiated upon the esteem and veneration with which Broadmeadows regarded, and always would regard, her beloved parson. The doctor alone said nothing as he hurried his voluble companions away; the sight of the pain in the old man's face had placed a heavy check upon his own tongue. He glanced back from the gate at his host standing on the door-step, a dark.robed, silver-haired figure holding a lamp aloft to guide their steps, and by his side a little white animal looking gravely out into the darkness of the night.

The parson closed the door after a moment and went back into his study. He stood gazing about him for a time with unseeing eyes, then he seated himself again at the table but made no effort to resume his book, nor did he notice the dog at his feet trying to jump up to his knees. Sometimes the Major could take the leap easily, at others he seemed to doubt his own powers and would hesitate, making futile springs; then finally, vanquished by his fear, he would settle back on his haunches, looking piteously for aid to the hand that never failed him. He went through this small pantomime now, whimpering softly until the man, attracted by the sound, lifted the supplicant in his arms.

"Old, little fellow," he said slowly, "why, so am I—so am—I. And they've tired of me after all these years—that's what it means despite their fair words." He pressed the dog against his breast, his resentment dying down on the instant.

After a little he went on, murmuring disjointed sentences half aloud.

"Through the burden and the heat of the day till sundown—Eh! they mean it kindly—they mean it kindly—they're full of tolerance for my shortcomings. Yet I'd hoped to die in harness—wear out, not rust out. How we cling to our brief authority, thinking we and we only can be of use."

He was silent for a few moments.

"What's that Emerson says? H—m! how does it go? 'It's time to be old, to take in sail.' Yes, that's it—apt!—and those other lines:

> " 'As the bird trims her to the gale
> I trim myself to the storm of time,
> I man the rudder, reef the sail.
> Obey the voice at eve, obeyed at prime.' "

He let a long pause intervene; then, with a sudden straightening of his bowed shoulders, he sat erect and repeated the rest of the poem as as though the words possessed a significance unpreceived until that moment.

> " 'Lowly faithful, banish fear,
> Right onward drive unharmed:
> The port, well worth the cruise, is near,
> And every wave is charmed.' "

His voice dropped into silence, his hand fell to the little head nestled against his breast. He raised the dog higher and with a gentle touch turned the slender muzzle upward until the Major's eyes, dewy with sleep and yet alert to the demand, looked directly back into his own. For a long minute master and dog gazed at each other, love and faith on either side, then a sudden beautiful smile broke over the old man's face.

"We can trust, little comrade," he said softly, "we can trust."

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MAIN LINE AND CONNECTIONS

Taking effect October 1st, 1[illegible].

TRAINS WEST.

LEAVE	1. AM *	11. AM †	15. AM †	23. PM †	29 PM †	53. AM ‡	5[illegible] PM ‡
New York Philadelphia							
Washington							
Baltimore	4.30	8.23	10.17	4.18	[illegible]	[illegible]5	3
Arlington		8.44	10.39	4.30	35	10 00	2 59
Mt. Hope		8.47	10.42	4.4	38	1 03	3 03
Pikesville		8.52	10.49	4.43	[illegible]	1	[illegible]
Owings Mills		9.02	11.02	4.52	6 58	2	[illegible]
Glyndon	5.11	9.12	11.14	5.03	09	0 33	[illegible]34
Emory Grove		9.13	11.15		10	1 34	[illegible]35
Finksburg		9.22	11.26	5.14	[illegible]	10 6	3.47
Carrollton		9.26	11.38	5.25	39	[illegible] 9	1 00
Westminster	5.40	9.51	11.53	5.40	7 [illegible]	1 6	[illegible]17
Avondale		9.58	12.00	5.48	06	11.23	[illegible]
New Windsor	5.53	10.08	12.10	6.01	18	11.34	4.28
Linwood		10.14	12.16	6.06	25	1.40	[illegible]
Union Bridge	6.00	10.20	12.20	6.12	30	1.45	[illegible]10
Middleburg		10.27	P.M.	6 18	M	AM.	PM
Bruceville	6.07	10.29		6.22			
D. P. Creek		10.33		6 26			
Rocky Ridge		10.40		6.34			
Thurmont	6.25	10.53		6 46			
Edgemont	7.05	11.42		7 24			
Waynesboro	†7 23	12.02		7.52			
Chambersb'g	†7.57	12.39		8 28			
Shippensburg	†	1.06		8.55			
Hagerstown Williamsport	7.30 AM	12 10 PM.		8 10 PM.			

TRAINS EAST.

LEAVE	22. PM *	4. AM †	8. AM †	12. PM †	18. PM †	52. AM ‡	[illegible] PM. ‡
Williamsport Hagerstown	4.15		7.02		2.17		
Shippensburg			6.00				
Chamb'rsburg			6.31		1.45		
Waynesboro			7.15		2.18		
Edgemont	4 40		7.25		2.41		
Thurmont	5.16		8.16		3.21		
Rocky Ridge			8.26		3.31		
D. P. Creek			8.33		3.38		
Bruceville	5.38		8.37		3.44		
Middleburg			8.39		3.46		
Union Bridge	5.45	6.05	8.45	12.50	3.55	[illegible]45	4 05
Linwood		6.12	8.49	12.54	4 00	6 5	4 09
New Windsor	5.52	6.20	8.54	12. 9	4.07	6 58	4 15
Avondale		6 34		1.09	4 18	7.11	4.24
Westminster	6.05	6.47	9.09	1 16	4.26	7.20	4.39
Carrollton		7.04	9.14	1.30	4.43	7 37	4.46
Finksburg		7.18	9.35	1 41	4.54	7 53	5.02
Emory Grove		7.30		1.50	5.06	8 02	5 14
Glyndon	6.35	7.40	9.43	1.51	5.07	8.0	5.15
Owings Mills	6.44	7.52	9.52	2.02	5.20	8.19	5.28
Pikesville		8.03	10.00	2.12	5 33	8 3	5.39
Mt. Hope		8.11	10.06	2.18	5 40	38	5.46
Arlington		8.14		2.21	5.44	8.42	5.49
Baltimore	7.17	8.40	10.27	2.42	6 05	[illegible]07	6.15
Washington							
Philadelphia New York	PM.	AM.	AM	PM.	PM		

*Daily. †Daily, except Sunday. ‡Sunday.

Passengers for and from Cherry Run, Williamsport, P. V. and intermediate points, from and for stations east of Hagerstown change at Hagerstown.

EMMITSBURG R. R. Trains East will leave Emmitsburg daily, except Sundays, at 7.5 and 10.00 A. M. and 2.55 and 4.50 P. M., arriving Rocky Ridge at 8.30 and 10.30 A. M. and 3.25 and 5.20 P. M. Trains west will leave Rocky Ridge, daily, except Sundays, at 8.26 and 10.40 A. M. and 3.31 and 6.34 P. M., arriving at Emmitsburg 8.56 and 11.10 A. M. and 4.01 and 7.04 P. M.

FREDERICK DIVISION PENNSYLVANIA R. R., (Daily ex. Sunday.)—Trains for Frederick leave Bruceville at 8.38 A. M. and 9.25 and 1.40 A. M. and 5.38 and 6.30 P. M. Trains for Taneytown, Littlestown and Columbia leave Bruceville 9.47 A. M., and at 3.45 P. M.

Through Trains for Hanover and Gettysburg and points on Baltimore and Harrisburg Division leave Baltimore daily, except Sunday, at 7.2 A. M. and 3.32 P. M. Through cars for Gettysburg and intermediate points leave Baltimore also daily, except Sunday at 10.17 A. M.

BALTIMORE & CUMBERLAND VALLEY BRANCH.—Trains leave Hagerstown for Waynesboro, Chambersburg and Intermediate Stations at 6.25 a. m. Leave Hagerstown for Shippensburg and intermediate Stations at 11.10 a. m. and 7.00 p. m. Leave Chambersburg for Hagerstown and Intermediate Stations at 1.45 p. m. Leave Shippensburg for Hagerstown and Intermediate Stations at 6.00 a. m., and 3.00 p. m.

FOR CHAMBERSBURG VIA. ALTENWALD CUT-OFF.—Leave Hagerstown for Chambersburg and Intermediate Stations at 6.12 a. m. and 3.2 p. m. Leave Chambersburg for Hagerstown and Intermediate Stations at 7.18 a. m. and 7.49 p. m.

CONNECTIONS AT CHERRY RUN, W. VA.—B. and O. passenger trains leave Cherry Run for Cumberland and intermediate points, daily, at 8.51 a. m., Chicago and Pittsburg Express, daily, at 1.04 p. m., Cincinnati, St. Louis and Chicago Express, daily, at 1.17 p. m., Chicago Express, daily, at 10.40 p. m. Passengers from W. M. train No. 211 for doints between Hancock and Cumberland take B. and O. train leaving Cherry Run at 1. 7 p. m. B. and O. east bound trains arrive Cherry Run at 4.15, 9.21 and 10.47 a. m., and 5.40 p. m.

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