MERLE'S CRUSADE.

of "Barbara Heathcote's Trial," memit's Whim," "The Search is of Banil Lyndhurst."

MAPTER XXIV.—"REAPING THE HARVEST. rished Mr. Hawtry would sit down talk to mein his usual friendly fash-but he kept fidgeting about the room, ag up books and laying them down he time that I was plying him with tion about Marshlands, and Gay, and

shmeat I was really very pleased to see sim. I could hardly now believe it was fir. Hawtry who was moving so restleash from the table to the window. He looked browner than ever, and very strong and well, and I nearly forgot to ask after his worken less.

roken leg.
"Oh, it is all right now," he answered,
beently. He was certainly very absent,
ery unlike himself. I think I talked all
he faster, because in my heart I felt nery-

ous, too.

"You are coming down to Marshlands next week, I hear," he said at last, stoppling straight before me.

"Yes, we are all coming," I answered, joyously; "Mrs. Morton and the new baby, and Mrs. Morris?"

"Who in the world is Mrs. Morris?" he asked, rather impatiently. It was a droll sort of unpatience, but I thought he looked anxious.

"Marshlands is babyles to be a side of the saked in the looked anxious."

sort of impatience, but I thought he looked anxious.

"Mrs. Morris is baby's nurse at present.
Ese is going to stay until September, and
then I shall take her place, and baby will
be in my charge."

"Oh, that is nonsense!" he said, quite
gruffly: "I cannot allow that for a moment, Miss Fenton." And then. as I
looked astonished at this, he said, in an
odd sort of choked voice, "I think I need
you more than Mrs. Morton does, Merle."

Are we capable of any feeling at all
when we arrive at the crisis of our life,
when some shock comes to us, upheaving
our former world, and overwhelming us
with sudden chaos? The numb intensity
that seizes upon us seems to deaden all
sensation.

mensation.

My first conscious thought was that I had known all the time what this meant, that it did not surprise me in the least; but this was an entire falsity on my part, arising from complete incredulity. Never had I imagined in my wildest dreams that life held such a gift for me; but I was too much stunned to accept it unconditionally.

too much stunned to accept it unconditionally.

I put aside Mr. Hawtry's earnest solicitations that I should try to care for him sufficiently to be his wife, and wasted much precious time in pointing out to him my apparent unfitness for such a position. I remember I sat there with cold hands and burning face, arguing against myself and lamenting my deficiencies, till I broke down at last, and could not find voice to tell him more.

He heard me with a sort of tender impatience visible in his manner, but he did not interrupt me as long as my voice and courage lasted. When my shame-faced remarks were ended, he said, very posity:

ed remarks were ended, as said, very atly;
"What nonsense you have been talkings hould hardly have believed that such a naible girl could say with things. Do a weat a list of my deficiencies and orthonology also? Shall we make out a sainst demonstration of each other's affects? No, Merle, this is not the question has us. I respect and honor you nore than I can tell you, and nothing you are said can influence me in the least. That I want to know now is, can you care or me sufficiently to be willing to marry set?"

me?"
After that there was only one answer possible. I did care for Mr. Hawtry, and I told him so.
His gratifude seemed overwhelming. But I am afraid I was rather stupid and irresponsive. My sudden happiness daysied and bewildered me; but I think he understood how I felt. He told me he had cared for me almost the first time be

go reluctantly, hoping to see me soon again, but his counin's illness and his own accident had kept us long apart.

"I had plenty of leisure time for thinking of you, Merle," he said, smiling, "when I was lying up with my broken leg. Edgar did his best for me, but with all his good nursing, poor fellow, I thought a woman's hand would have been softer about ma. Do you remember my telling you, dear, that I wished Agnes could have known you? I meant to try and win you for my wife then."

I manued to grow calmer and outster

had crossed the bridge so carelessly that afternoon is the sunshing, never dreaming that it would lead me it as saw life. The work of the control of the con

I had not meant to tell anyone that night; but Hannah was trustworthy and faithful, and I was very fond of her.

"Nothing has happened," I returned, with assumed carelesanesa, "except that Mr. Hawiry was at Aunt Agatha'a."

"Mr. Hawiry was at Aunt Agatha'a."

"Mr. Hawiry was at Aunt Agatha'a."

"Yes: I was very much surprised to see him, as you may imagine; and Hannah. I expect I shall surprise you, tao, because I am going to marry Mr. Hawiry."

I shall never forget the girl's look; her roay face turned quite pale; her eyes were distended with wonder.

"You are going to marry Squire Hawtry, Miss Fenton!" And then in her excitement she kissed me heartily, and a moment afterward begged my pardon for taking such a liberty. "You must forgive me, miss, for I was almost beside myself with the news."

"Nonsense, Hannah, I have nothing to forgive," I returned, blushingly.

"Oh, but you will be Madame Hawtry some day," replied Hannah, humbly, "and Luke's only a farm servant, and Lyddy also. I must not forget the difference between us. I wish you joy, Miss Fenton, itudeed I do. Squire Hawiry is the finest gentleman I know, and Molly says the same. She will be proud and glad when she bears the news that you are coming to the Red Farm."

Hannah's words almost took my breath away. I was glad when she bade me good-night and left me alone with the ulceping children.

I drept softly to the window, and sat for some time looking over the moonlift gardens. I felt, with a sudden thrill at the remembrance of Hannah's words, that I had not realized it yet. I had only thought of Mr. Hawtry—of his wonderful goodness and kindness. It had not entered my mind that I should spend my life at the Red Farm.

It seemed almost too good to be true. I closed my eyes and tried to imagine it all. Should I ever spend long happy days in the moonlight, martil I had fallen askep. Such a thought as this had never occurred how I had set in the old nursery at Marshiands, dreaming of all sorts of things in the moonlight, until I had fallen askep. Buch a t

d me not to dis-

with my mistress and the children. It almost broke my heart to see them go without me.

Mrs. Morris had promised to remain until Christmas; but Hannah would be married before then, and I wondered sadly, as I drove with my luggage to the cottage, who would replace me at Prince's Gate.

"In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand." How those words came to me a month later, when one of my old school-fellows. Helen Transome, wrote to me and begged me to ne my nituence with my mistress and procure the situation for her.

I knew her and circumstances would appeal to my mistress' feeling heart. Poor Helen! hers had been a trying life. Her family had suffered great reverses; from wealth they had been reduced almost to indigence. Her father had died, worn out with the bitter struggle, and her lover had given her up for a richer bride.

Helen had borne her troubles with a patience that bordered on heroism; but it had broken the springs of youth. She looked far older than her years warranted, and much of her beauty had faded; but ahe was fair and geutle-looking, with soft manners, that seemed to win my mistress. Her love of children was evident; she had a quiet influence with them that had it.

"Miss Transme will never, as place, Meria, my mistress."

a quiet influence with them that had it welf felt.

"Mise Transacte with never, place, Merie J my mise work; "but she is very pice and d to the children, and Mrs. Morroway, whall be able to trust beby to her. I do be lieve the poor thing looks a little happier already. I went in just now, and heard her laughing at something Joyce said. She has such a silvery, pretty laugh."

I knew that my mistrees would soon take poor Helen into her heart, and I was glad to think she had found such a kind refuge. We did not speak much of Helen then; I was paying my good-bye visit to Prince's Gate, for two days later I was to be married.

They had loaded me with beautiful gifts suitable to my new position; but I was not thinking of

be married.

They had loaded me with beautiful gifts suitable to my new position; but I was not thinking of them or of my mistress' last loving speech as I walked across the bridge. It was to tober again, and the red and yellow leaves were floating on the water; the mellow air and sunshine spoke of harvests garnered in while the earth rested after her labors.

My harvest had come already, and yel the laborer had worked but a short time in the vineyard, while others would too until evening. I had done so little and reaped so much. Through the slanting sunbeams I looked to the distant home where floger was waiting for me, in that home where, God willing, we should work together, not leading idle lives, but tharing with others a little of our happiness and where, out of our full hearts, we should surely give "praise continually;" and as these thoughts came to me, I seem ed to bear Hoger's deep voice echoing "Amen."

THE END. Scene in a Restaurant.

Woman slone at a table. Enter two n. One of them in possession of a re accompanied by that sort of imritinenes which, strange to say, some n paim off, or think they do, as wit. woman's order is served, soup and ead. The man described stares at a woman and says to his companion: "Did you ever notice that a woman tways orders soup when she comes into a restaurant?"

INTERESTING TO FARMERS.

lodged in the throat."

A faded rag carpet may have its ap given. pearance greatly improved by being first washed clean, rinsing thoroughly, and then dyed with Diamond dye. One package, 10 cents, will cover from three to five yards.

A wi'ter in Woman's Work says in regard to boiled eggs: "Put them on in out the head, set fire to a piece of paper cold water, and when it has boiled the and put it in the barrel. The fire will eggs will be done, and will be much burn with a loud roar. Roll the barrel boiling water."

of any kind be sure that there are no oil, roll around until it is spread all over by the tree blowing about. Many will most of the charcoal and wash it out. be lost through carelessness in this re- It is not necessary to burn over one-eihth gard. A mulching of coarse straw inch deep. I will maarantee there will will help retain moisture.

broken plaster and impressions is to for ham, pork, beef lard and honey. Old paint the broken surfaces over two or musty or tainted barrels I treat in the three times with very thick shellac same way by using a pint or so of oil. varnish, and at each application to Have teated linseed oil barrels the burn out the alcohol over a flame, same way." When the shellac is sufficiently goft press the parts together and holdfin position till cool. It will be as strong as it was before it was broken.

either in the condition of the animal a horse runs down low in flesh. With season of summer imposes on farm erand mistake in doing so.

a's the way through misdirection of knew how to travel-Philadelphia g. orant or mischievous persons. Times.

Good butter may be kept a year as well as a week if properly packed. In their own, bur that which is the pro-cying down for winter use, stone jan perty of others, whether we take that will be found better then the modern property as soap and soda, candles and firkins used in shipping. He sure your commestibles, or what not. Human be-ar is perfectly sweet, scald and partly ings are not given to look upon other rack to within two or three inches of armer.

Milk from Diseased Cows. "How far may a cow be tuberculous sefore her milk becomes dangerous as an article of food?" is an important ques tion, ably presented in a recent bulleting of the Hatch experiment station. The conclusions, as shown by the facts de veloped by the experiments, are: "First, and emphatically, that the milk from cows affected from tuberculsis in any part of the body may contain the virus of the disease; second, that the virus is present whether there is disease of the udder or not third, that there is no ground for the assertion that there must be a lession of the udder before the milk can contain the infection of tuberculosis; fourth, on the contrary, the bacilli of tuberculosis are presen and active in a very large proportion of cases in the milk of cows affected with tuderculosis but with no discoverable ssion of the udder. And this simply means that the milk of a cow suffering from tuberculosis is aways diseased and dangerous. It is not necessary that the udder should become diseased, when the bacilli of tuberculosis are discovarsh'e through the milk. This shows that the producers of milk who have any regard for the health and lives of their fellows cannot be too careful about the health of their cows, that they may be sure that there is no taint of tuberculom; and it also emphasizes th is in them; and it also emphasizes the importance of a thorough inspection and supervision of herds that furnish milk to the public, by comptent health

You peach trees, currents and goods-buries coal askes make one of the best materials that can be used as a mulch. They not only aid materially to retain meisture in the poil, but they also will still to keep down the wants and repol injurious peaks. They must not be de-possing upon to optimity keep away the vector level that injust these plants. If they will prove a vectories of the collection for the second of the first the state passes machined.

Worked into the soil they make it more ose and pliable, while a good layer on "The raw white of an egg in almost the surface will effectively keep down time, but generally the bester time is after a thorough cultivation has been N. J. S.

The seathern confederacy started to oppose the invading fees with an empty treasury. So a "promise to pay" had to given. every instance will dislodge a fishbone weeds. They can be applied at any or anything else that may become time, but generally the better time is

Cleaning Oil Barrels

The question is asked if coal oil barrels can be cleaned for meat. A friendly farmer writes to the Mining and Scien tific News "I have used them for fifteen years with perfect success. Knock more digestible than when put on in round so it will burn out even, and when it is burned one-eight of an If you have transplanted large trees inch deep, turn in about a pint of coal oles reaching down to the roots, caused the inside then fire again. Scrape off never be the slightest taste of coal oil An excellent and quick way to mend in the meat. I have used these barrels

The Yankee Girl Abroad. In her aptitude for the details of traveling the American girl often There is evidently something wrong, own heath. One summer, in Leamington, an American glr! wishing to have or the management of the same, when her "luggage" taken to the railway station, and being located so near it even the hardest work which the busy herself that there was no need of taking a cab, went to the station and asked to teams a fair condition of flesh may be have a porter sent around for it. (They maintained if a proper ration of food do not have baggage expresses in Engis given and necessary care] taken. land.) On mentioning this little inci-There is no excuse for poor horses at dent in the presence of an Englishman any time of the year, and the farmer and an army officer he was surprised to who lets his team run down makes a learn that such a thing could be done, and said he should never have thought Massachusetts has a law which might of doing it, but would have been quite be copied throughout the country with helpless in such an emergency and advantage to all who travel from home obliged to take a "fly" in order to get sy team. The towns are required to his luggage to the station. He had his maintain a guide board at each road doubts as to the success of this bit of crossing or junction containing in American enterprise and shrewdness, gible characters the names and dis- and when the hour arrived at which the ances to near-by principal places and impromptu expressman was due the pinting the way. Failure to do India colonel was on the qui vive to this in any case subjects the town to a see if the plan really succeeded. I am se of 85 a month for each neglect. happy to say it did, and the Englishrie might travel by team in that state man watched the "boxes" go off, admir-At weeks and never ask a question or ing the while the American girl who

> Waste in the House. Servants are forever spending not

fill with cold water until ice cold. people's property in the same light as prinkle salt in the bottom to the depth they look upon their own, says the I half an inch, cover with a white cloth National Review. A professional man and pack in your butter, which has been traveling at his own expense travels worked" sufficiently to remove all but- cheaply, but at the expense of another ter milk, but not enough to destroy the generally the reverse of economically. grain. Press in firmly and cover with a So with domestic servants; they spend, Joth bag holding salt enough to but do not buy; everything is ready to over the butter to a depth of two inches. their hands and nothing to pay for, and oard and weight. Kept in a cool cellar others, but is also demoralizing in that cood butter packed in this way will be it blunts the perceptions regarding oze sweet with a whiff of June about it waste. The waste in large households m mid winter. - A. L. C. in Nebraska is always considerable, often terrible; the land of plenty is not the land of economy, tut the atmosphere of the former is that surrounding servants. There is consequently a growing tendency to disregard waste as a sin: the waste does not react upon themselves, constantly going on at their master's tables and at their own, and their eyes become blinded to it, not because they cannot realize that to waste is to sin, effect that surroundings have upon have but a meager idea of the value of the things they use or consume, because they never have to pay for them. but when the time comes that they have to provide for themselves, a lamentable exhibition of their want of experience is too often the result. We know how often it happens that servants who have of the want of success which terminated in their ruin, but their previous training and the easy conditions of their lives as servants rendered them unable to count the cost before setting out.

Inconspicuous Telegraph In

sulators. Stone throwing vagrants have cause such damage to telegraph insulators in Belgium that the government is trying the plan of using insulators coated with a grayish-brown enamel—hardly dis-tinguishable in color from the poles—in place of the ordinary white insulators. The result is that the breakages are reduced from 55 per cent per year to 13 per cent. Iron-clad insulators have been tried previously, but proved too.

Out and Out.

Terre Haute Express: Briggs—The is one thing I admire about your wife, if you will permit me to say on. She is

The First Confederate Tree

It took money to carry on the The seathern confederacy star

One of the first things to be done by the treasury of the young nation was to issue legal tender of some kind.

The making of confederate bonds and notes was a great trial with the young treasury. In the south no engravers bank paper.

So arrangements were made to print some bonds in New York. The work was gone about very carefully and every means used to avoid detection. But the bonds were seized, however, sefore they left New York. These bonds were printed by the American bank note cempany, and when the federal authorities found this out through a tell-tale employe the southern confederacy had to rely upon its own resources to get up bonds and notes.

An engraver of cards and posters by the name of Hoyer, a German by nationallity, lived in Richraond, and he was employed to issue the first notes, which were eight \$100 bills. One of these bills

would bring considerable now as a relic. A paper was smuggled through the lines from New York and given to astonishes the European native on his Hoyer. He had only old and inferior stones for engraving purposes and with them he made the first confederate treasury notes. The stones had previously been used to engrave playcards. Of course they were faulty and full of errors, and under any other circum-

stance would have been thrown away. but some kind of legal tender had to be secured at once and the rude notes were accepted.

When the secretary read the proofs he ordered them printed, indorsing on the margin of the proof the following: "When the money changers become familiar with these incoming bills it will be as difficult to pass a counterfeit. as if they had been engraved on steel-

perhaps more so." The German engraver used what was an old-fashioned press even in that day, and the bills were printed by hand, a very slow and tedious process.

These, rude, uncouth bills found no buyers, but were accepted in good faith by loyal southern hearts. They were pledges of a brave, fearless people, and by that people were accepted as such.

They were not worth much upon their face, but thousands of men died to give them value, and three times as many died to make them worthless.

Soon the country was flooded with confederate bills. The number circulated depended on how fast the treasury could issuathem. Bills of small denominations soon went out of style, and nothing under \$100 left the treasurer's hand, while \$500 and \$1,000 bills were as numerous as \$5 bills are to-day. Of course the price of everything went up, and it was a mere bagatelle to pay \$200 for a yard of flannel, or \$300 for a pound of coffee, or \$1,000 for a pair of boots, or \$10,000 for a horse,

Worthless as were these "promis he top and cover with a salt bag and a certain indifference for the property of ever issed by a nation on earth. Atlanta Journal.

No Harm Intended. From an exchange: Cassius, or "Cash Cologne," as he is usually named. a well known resident of Faubuier county, Va., recently paid his first visit to New York. He entered a dry goods store to buy a dress pattern for his wife. Walking up one of the aisles. and is consequently imperceptible; it is he was more than surprised to hear some one in the dim distance loudly yell out, "Cash!" Naturally astonished he looked in the direction whence the voice came, supposing its owner to be a but because they become inured to it friend or acquaintance. Still he could by custom. Another indication of the see no one whom he recognized. Wondering more and more, astonishment servants is supplied by the fact of their grew to boiling point, when as if by being generally imp.ovident. They preconcerted signal, from all parts of the room came persistent cries of "Cash!" "Cash!" "Cash!" This was more than Virginian chivalry could bear, and, at that moment a clerk with a locomotive whistle voice, standing contrived to save a little I se their all here, young fellow, you folks think on setting up for themostres. Want of you're having a lot of fun with me, but business ability may a count for a part if you use my name that way again I'll break your neck." It took the proprietor and six floor walkers half an hour to convince him as to the facts of the case and that no harm was meant.

When a Woman is Well Lorened The general woman is the woman you know and I know, you like and I like. She has wit and sense enough to realize that the most expensive fashions are often the key-note to the develop pretty coats and frocks in less costly fabrics, says a writer in the Lasses Home Journal. If she is wise she will study out the colors and stuffs that suit giores and hats in harmony are after all, make a well-dressed . They need not absolutely match, a color must, as the French peop weer at each other." The plant in most forwer, each shade blant