Wall Street Operators Taking Nothing for Granted in Their Business.

DISCOUNTING ANY FOND HOPES

Trading Still Conservative, with a Marked Improvement in Money Matters-Evidences that the Situation is Becoming Decidenly Easier.

In his weekly letter Henry Clews, the Wall street expert, says:

During the past week, the stock market has fairly held the firmness of undertone exhibited the previous week. The market, however, is so narrow and so entirely in the hands of the professional traders that it easily reflects any change of attitude among operators and at the same time affords special inducements to the creation of fluctuations. The stubborn firmness of prices has induced a reduction of the short interest. An unfavorable influence however, has come from Boston in the shape of large realizings upon General Electric, with a resulting decline in that stock. Large sales of Northern Pacific issues also tended to weaken prices momentarily. The sensitiveness about time loans still continues. These various influences, though comparatively unimportant both in detail and in aggregate, have proved sufficient to affect a highly sensitive market and to cause realizings upon the railies. Even the good effect of a gain of \$4,500,000 in the reserve averages of the banks only made the becasion more favorable for the taking of

"The course of the silver discussion in congress does not at the moment prove to be an important influence in the stock market. Not at all because its great significance is underrated, but because in its present stage the issue is not calculated to affect immediate values. Wall street, perhaps, esti-mates the probabilities as 5 to 1 in favor of the unconditional repeal of the silver purchase clause, and that calculation un-doubtedly gives backbone to the market. But there is much diversity of opinion as to what may prove to be the first effect of the repeal upon the financial markets. That it will result in a great and general revival of confidence there can be and there is little question. But the present crisis is so extraordinary in its nature and its workings that men are cautious in estimating how much effect may be expected from such a radical relief as this would be; and, moreover, in the present public mood, such a premium is put upon doubts that the solitary chance of an unfavorable decision by congress has much more influence than it ought. In other words, Wall street is in a temper to take little for granted and to discount no mere hopes. Besides, there is no definite opinion as to what may be the immediate effect of the repeal upon the money market. The currency machinery has been so fundamentally deranged that it is not easy to say what time it may take to draw out the millions of money held in hoard nor how long to restore the distribution of | Flour, bbls currency into its normal channels, nor yet how far the usual fall demand for cash move the crops may affect the restoration of the monetary equilibrium. Hence, whilst repeal would unquestionably cause a uni-versal and immediate return of confidence, yet it is not impossible that some time might clapse before the various financial entanglements were straightened out and the loan market become settled and easy.
"Congress seems to be steadily working

its way toward a solution of the silver question in conformity with the wishes of the great majority of the people. It was hardly to be expected that members would forego such an opportunity of exhibiting their oratorical powers, hence there has been a great deal of waste time over dis-cussion in the house; but there is no longer any doubt that the outcome in the lower chamber will be a safe, if not a large majority, in favor of unconditional repeal. In the senate, there is likely to be a similar trifling with the public impatience for a verdict; but the result in that branch of congress may be regarded as being virtually beyond doubt in favor of the national interes The discussion of this question brings out diversity of suggestions for a remodeling our currency and banking systems, nore of which seem likely to result in any immediate changes. Their chief significance lies in the fact that they reflect a widely prevailing dissatisfaction with much of our monetary and banking arrangements under the law as it now stands. This may suggest the neces-sity of a consideration of these questions at no distant day; but, as yet, they have not become burning issues, and therefore are not likely to hold congress in session after the silver question has been settled, but to be deferred until at least the tariff and internal revenue legislation has been disposed of.
"The condition of monetary affairs is im-

proving, and to a greater extent than ap-pears on the surface. So long as the banks have to restrict their cash payments and currency is selling at a premium appear ances must be unsatisfactory, but although these figures still remain, a great deal is being accomplished toward their removal. The arrival of nearly \$50,000,000 of gold from Europe, and still more on the way, and the issue of \$12,000,000 of bank circulation, all of which has been accomplished within the las two or three weeks, cannot possibly fail to work out an immense relief. The banks of this city must now be on the verge of toration of their reserves to the legal limit, and there can be no doubt that the country banks are holding much more than the aver age amount of cash. When these facts be come officially declared, the spell of the stringency will be broken and confidence and ease will gain rapidly. In the mean-time, there are distinct signs in the interior cities of a more decided turn toward recov-

### ery than has yet appeared at this center.' FOREIGN FINANCIAL REVIEW.

Stocks Quiet-American Securities Take an

Upward Turn. London, Aug. 27 .- In sympathy with the rise of the bank rate discount has gone up to 634 for money at sixty days and 354 for thirty days. The Stock exchange was exceedingly quiet last week, even for August. Italian securities went down rapidly in view of the complications caused by the Aigues-Mortes affair. Most of the shanges in American securities were in favor shanges in American securities were in favor of the holders on the strength of the improvement in the business situation in New York. Atchison mortgage bonds rose \$ points; Northern Pacific rose 2½; Union Pacific rose 1½; Wabash, mortgage bonds. 1½; Wabash preferred, 1½; New York Central, 1½; Central Pacific shares, 1½; Lake Shore, 1½; Cand Tale ; Lake Shore, 1½; Grand Trunk, second ferred, 1; Norfolk & Western ordinary, Ohio & Mississippi ordinary, ½; Denver & Rio Grande fell 1/2; Denver & Rio Grande

### COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL.

Premium for Carrying Wheat Fast Narrowing to Normal Dimension Chicago, Aug. 26.—The premium for carry ing wheat is fast narrowing down to normal fimensions. The spread between September and December, which two or three days ago was Se per bu., narrowed to 614c today. The carriers had orders in at the opening to take September and December at 7c difference. Much was traded this way, but the buying of September and seiling of December pre dominated. The public cable quoted wheat

futures firm and from 14d to 34d higher. The commercial agencies in their weekly reviews of trade indicated much improvement in conditions, with \$35,000,000 in gold already imported in a few weeks and more coming. Bradstreet's gave the exports wheat and flour for the week at nearly 5,000,000 bu. This was better than was expected. On top of this came the New York bank statement with an increase of \$5,300,000 in reserves and otherwise favor able. This gave the market its best buige The local trade having loaded up on the advance, turned to take profits the last hour and weakened the market, and the bulge was lost. No sales of cash wheat for shipment were reported. The opening was from ige to ige higher for September and Decem-ber, then eased off from ige to ige for the

ONLY PLAYING CERTAINTIES former and Me for the latter, became firm and prices were advanced from he to like for the latter, eased off from Me to Me, held, steady and the close was Me higher for September and the same for December as the

closing figures of yesterday.

Corn was quiet and averaged better than yesterday, shorts being more disposed to take profits and the action of wheat having a stimulating influence. The market opened at yesterday's final figures, was steady and soon advanced %c, cased off from %c to %c, ruled steady and at the close had lost from

ruled steady and at the close had lost from 1/4c to 3/4c.

There was a 1/4c decline in oats in sympathy with corn, and a rally of from 1/4c to 1/4c later on fair buying. Fair selling was induled in when the estimate of 415 cars for Monday came out, but prices were not materially affected and the close was steady at about the same to a shade over yesterday's prices. day's prices.

Provisions were very firm. The advance in the price of ribs yesterday did not have the effect of shutting off the cash demand and consequently they were given another hoist today. Business was not heavy, but the price advanced, as no one seemed dis-posed to sell more, especially for September delivery. Pork was considered relatively heaper than other meats and was wanted by packers, who are said to be getting a good profit on it by cutting it into strips. Some more of the shorts in September ribs were forced to come in cn the bulge. Port closed at an advance of 60c on yesterday's losing. September lard gained 254c and 10c. September ribs are 2754c but the advance in October is higher.

Estimated receipts for Monday: Wheat, 82 cars; cora, 700 cars; oats, 415 cars; hogs, 27,000 head. The leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
WHEAT- Aug Sept Dec	60% 60% 67%	61% 61% 68%	60% +34 67%	60%@61 61%@4 67%
Aug Sept Oct May	3674 3674837 3774 40%	3734 3734 3834 4036	36% 36% 37% 18% 40	3656 3656 3756-34 4046-4036
Sept Oet May. Mess Pork	2436/236 2436/236 2036	24 2456 2056	2814 2434 2934@36	23% 24% 20% 20%
Aug Sept Oct	13 50 13 55	14 00 14 10	13 50 13 50	13 90 13 90 14 10
Aug Sept Oct SHORT RIBS-	8 07% 7 85	8 12% 8 02%	8 05 7 85	8 12% 8 12% 8 00
Aug Sept	8 45 8 05	8 72% 8 10	8 40 7 92%	8 70 8 70 8 10

Cash quotations were as follows: FLOUR—Dull, steady. WHEAT—No. 2 spring, 60%c; No. 3 spring, o. b., new, 51c; No. 2 red, 50%&fic. CORN—No. 2, 35%c; No. 3 yellow, closing

CORN-No. 2, 30%c; No. 3 yellow, closing 384c.

OATS-No. 2, 234c; No. 2 white, 264@274c; No. 3 white, f. o. b., 254@264c.

RYE-No. 2, 444c.
BARLEY-No. 2, nominal; No. 3, f. o. b., new, 39c; No. 4, f. o. b., new, 35c.

FLAX SEED-No. 1, \$1.

TIMOTHY SEED-Prime, \$3.45@3.50.
PORK-Mess, per boll, \$18.90@14.15; lard, per 100 lbs., \$8.124@8.224; short ribs. sides (loose), \$8.85@8.90; dry salted shoulders (boxed), \$7.25@7.50; short clear sides (boxed), \$8.25@8.50.

WHISKY-Distillers' finished goods, per gal., \$1.12.

Integ. D.57: Standard	l; cut loaf, 6½c; granu "A," 5½c. e the receipts and ship
A)UTICLES.	RECEIPTS.  SHIPMENT

Rye, bu Barley, bu	5.000	11.000
On the Produce exchange market was duil; creamer 17@22c. Eggs, easy; strictl	today th ry, 19@24 y fresh, 14	e butte

St. Louis, Aug. 26.-Fious-Firm, unchanged.
WHEAT—Unchanged: No. 2 red, cash and August, 584c; September, 584c; October, 61c; December, 604@66%c.
CORN—Was dead; No. 2 cash and August, 34c; September, 33%c; December, 33%c; May,

September, 35 %c; December, 35 %c; August, 35 %c.

OATS-Lower: No. 12, cash, 23 %c; August, 24c; September, 23 %c.
PROVISIONS — Strong, advancing; pork, 514.62%; lard, \$8.10.

BUTTER-Unchanged.

EGGS-Unchanged.

RECEIPTS—Flour, 3,000 sacks; wheat, 77,000 bu; corn, 56,000 bu; oats, 22,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Flour, 8,000 sacks; wheat, 138,-

000 bu.; corn, 141,000 bu.; oats, 22,000 bu. Cotton Market.

Cotton Market.

New Orleans, Aug. 26.—Futures steady; sales, 27,500 bales; August, \$7.07 nominal; September, \$7.07 bid; October, \$7.17\tilde{2}7.18; November, \$7.29\tilde{2}7.30; December, \$7.38\tilde{2}7.39; January, \$7.54\tilde{2}7.55; February, \$7.62\tilde{2}7.63; March, \$7.70\tilde{2}7.72.

Good middling, 7\tilde{3}c; middling, 7 1-16c; low middling, 6 13-16c; good ordinary, 6\tilde{3}c; net receipts, 615 bales; gross, 617 bales; exports to France, 2,244 bales; coastwise, 2,377 bales; sales, 156 bales; stock, 41,322 bales.

Liverpool Markets. Liverpool, Aug. 26.—Whear—Steady; demand moderate; holders offer freely; No. 1 California, 58.74@58.8d per cental; red western spring at 58.5d@58.6d; No. 2 red winter, 58.14@58.6d Steady; demand moderate; mixed , 31d per cental.

SPIRITS OF TURPENTINE-21s 6d per cwt. Cincinnati Markets. CINCINNATI Aug. 26.-WHEAT-Barely steady;

CORN-Stronger; No. 2 mlxed, 4164114c, OATS-Barely steady; No. 2 mlxed, 264c, Whisky-Steady; \$1.12. Oil Markets.

LONDON, Aug. 26.—CALCUTTA LINSEED— spot, 41s 1035d per quarter. Linseed Oil.—20s 3d per cwt. LINSEED OIL-20s 9d per cwt. SPIRITS OF TURPENTINE-21s 4%d per cwt.

Havana Markets.

Havana, Aug. 27.—Sugar—Dull. Stock scarce. Molasses sugar, regular to good, polarization, \$2.75@2.87½ gold per quintal.

OMAHA LIVE STOCK. Past Week Has Been One of Very Liberal

Receipts. SATURDAY, Aug. 26. The past week has been one of very liberal receipts, and receipts for the month of August promise to be the largest in the his tory of the yards for that month. Receipts for the past two weeks, with the fourth week of August, 1892, are given below:

| Cattle | Hogs | Sheep | Receipts this week | 12,184 | 37,513 | 4,605 | Receipts last week | 11,160 | 32,942 | 6,901 | Same week last year | 13,580 | 28,977 | 5,779 Except during the past two days the cattle market has been decidedly weak, with prices on the down grade. Receipts have been rather liberal, showing an increase of over 1,000 head compared with last week. The trou pie is there has been no corresponding improvement in the demand to absorb the increased offerings. The proportion of western cattle now coming forward is increasing daily while good dry lot beeves are becoming scarcer in about the same ratio. This fact will explain why ripe corn fed cattle have held their own fairly well the past week in spite of a 15c to 25c decline in prices for the ordinary run of partly fatted and grass cattle. Local dressed beef men continue to 1 onopolize the trade as the tightness of oney and the generally unsatisfactory con-lition of eastern markets make the road of the speculative shipper a hard one to travel. Fluctuations in butchers' stock and canner values have been in sympathy with fat

cattle prices. It is rather remarkable that in spite of the depression in the fat cattle market the feeder trade has been active and gaining strength every day. In other words while strength every day. In other words while strength every day. In other words while fat cattle declined 15c to 20c, feeder values advanced just about that much. The posi-below the 25 per cent required by law. The exhibit was even more favorable than of exhibit was even more favorable than at looked, for the banks, gaining \$5,354,500 in cash and \$177,500 in deposits loans were contracted \$2,952,800, while circulation increased \$1,042,000, making the total increase this month \$2,644,000. In a general way the market was strengthened by the recent arrivals of gold and a conviction that the Sherman silver bill will be repealed. The rise induced some selling to realize profits, but at the close the list was strong and firm. The net gain for the day ranged from ½ to \$25 per cent, the latter in Lake Shore and Western Union. The total sales of listed and unlisted stocks were 70,965 shares.

and unlisted stocks were 70,926 shares. The Post says: A noticeable feature of the week closing today has been the improved feeling in several trade centers. The rail-road returns and the figures of the week's grain shipments show that the better feel ing is not at all due to freer money accommo

Improvement in the market is hardly perceptible. The shrinkage in the country's clearing house exchanges, which fairly reflect business activity, is enormou s. The first wee

tion of feeders is certainly very strong and tion of feeders is certainly very strong and with anything short of excessive receipts values are bound to hold up well.

Another encouraging feature of the market the past week has been the receipt and satisfactory sale of several train loads of southern cattle. They came from Indian Territory via the Rock Island, and as they get the same rate into Omaha that they get to Kansac City and a for heavened. sas City, and so far have sold at an average of fully 50 per cwt better than at Kansas City, it is but reasonable to look for a fair

number of castle from that territory, and local packers will not always have to depend on Kansas City for their supply of Texas cattle, buying there and reshipping here.
The market today was practically a repetition of Friday's trading. Aside from the increased receipts, conditions were much the same. There was no outside demand to speak of, and although the inquiry from local houses was quite brisk with such ample offerings, sellers were generally ready willing to take steady prices willing to take steady prices. As a result the movement was toloffered. As a result the movement was tolerably free. Good to choice cornfed cattle were fully steady; other grades barely steady. There was a load of fancy 1.531-lb. beeves on sale that were fancy enough to bring \$4.90, the top price paid here in months, but \$4 to \$4.35 bought very good 1.250 to 1.200-lb. steers, and the fair to interior grades and at few \$2.75 to 2.75. ferior grades sold at from \$2.75 to \$3.75. Two or three big strings of Wyoming steers, weighing from 1.187 to 1,278 lbs., changed

tory scattle averaged 829 lbs. and brought \$2.25. The feeling was not particularly strong, but the movement was quite brisk, and at the close there was little of any consequence unsold in the pens.

The cow market was not far from steady. Compared with the total receipts, the offerings in this line were quite limited. There was a very fair demand and the fifteen or sixteen loads changed hands readily at from 75c to \$1.75 for canners to \$2 to \$2.40 for fair to pretty good butchers' cows. Common to to pretty good butchers' cows. Common to choice veal culves sold at fully steady prices from \$1.60 to \$4.50. Rough stock was in light supply and indifferent demand at weak

hands at \$3 and \$3.25 and the Indian Territory scattle averaged \$29 lbs. and brought

Stockers and feeders continue in active demand at improved prices. There were a good many both fresh and state feeders on sale and the volume of trading was quite large. The bulk of the fair to good stock changed hands at from \$2.55 to \$3. Good to choice feeders are quotable at \$2.75@3.15; fair to good at \$2.60@2.75, and common stuff at \$2.00

Hoss—The whys and wherefores of the contertions of the hog market the past week or two are past finding out not to mention explaining. In the first place no one ever heard of such heavy receipts in August. Some 8,500 more hogs were received during the past week than were here a year ago, making the August receipts, so far, nearly 12,000 heavier than last year. There seems, 12,000 heavier than last year. There seems, however, to have been an easing up of financial matters at least, the active demand from all sources and the readiness with which the 37,500 hogs were taken care of would seem to indicate that money was not so hard to get hold of. As money becomes easier the speculative element will begin to cut quite a figure in the trade and the "Stecks of Prayisions" are now as here. cut quite a figure in the trade and the "Stocks of Provisions" are now so low that it will be a great deal easier to advance the market than to pound it. Buyer and seller, producer and manufacturer are closer together than they have been for years. They are afraid of each other and both afraid of the market. Everything now depends on receivits and the rest. thing now depends on receipts, and the propective supply of hogs is about as well un-derstood as the corn crop of 1894. At any rate it is rather gratifying that in the face of such exceptionally heavy receipts there should be an advance of 35c to 40c in values. Receipts today were considerably more than double last Saturday's run with no noticeable change in the general quality of the offerings. The

heavy run with not very reassuring advices from Chicago produced a very weak feeling at the opening, and when buyers started in bidding 5c to 10c lower than Friday they found some sellers ready to meet their views. The strong close to provisions Friday stiffened sellers somewhat, however, and when good shipping orders arrived trading became very lively, and at prices fully steady with Friday and in some cases stronger. The light and light mixed hogs were in the best demand and commanded a 10c to 20c premium over heavies, selling very largely at \$5.20 and \$5.30, with \$5.35 for high mark and a few scattering sales at \$5.10 and \$5.15. Heavy and mixed packers sold mostly at \$5.10 and \$5.15, with choice suff at \$5.20 and rough and mixed loads at \$5 and \$5.05. The ex

treme close was weak, but everything sold in pretty good season, the bulk at from \$5.10 to \$5.20, against \$5.10 to \$5.25 Friday and \$4.65 to \$4.80 last Saturday.
SHEEP—The market was again bare of sheep for the third time this week. There is nothing new in the situation and prices are quotably as low as they have been any time of late, with the demand decidedly in-different. Quotations: Fair to good natives, \$3.00@3.50; fair to good westerns, \$2.00@3.25; common and stock sheep, \$1.50@2.75; good

to choice 40 to 100-lb lambs, \$3.00/4.50. Receipts and Disposition of Stock. Official receipts and disposition of stock as shown by the books of the Union Stock Yards company for the twenty-four hours ending at 5 o'clock p. m., August 26, 1893; BECEIPTS.

200			******				
CATT	CATTLE. HOGS.		SID	EEP.	HORSES & MLS		
Cars.	Head	Cars,	Head.	Cars.	Head	Cars.	Head.
110	2,711	124	7.812				
				SITIO		1000	
	HU	YERS.		CA	TTLE.	HOGS.	SHEEP
Swift & The Cu John F Sinelal Wissan Tabor Chicag Hamm P. D. A Shippe	A A A Condata	Pack ire & c	ing Co		230 778 639	641 459 1,655 352 545 167 146 746 200 1,636	

		MM HARRAYA	* *******
Total	2.4	75 7.79	2
Stock Receipts of live sto western markets Satu South Omaha	in Sight ck at the rday, At Cattle.	e four n	rincipal Sheep.
Chicago. Kansas City St. Louis	5,000 400	2,000 6,000 1,300	8,000 1,000 200
Total	8,711	17,112	4,200

### DONALD'S LOVE STORY.

The breakfast room at the Greys' seemed even brighter than usual, although it was always cheerful, particularly in the morning, when the sun came through the east window and shone on the pretty, tastefully arranged table, set this morning for six, two more than usual.

Madge and her mother were already down, the latter glancing around here and there, while Madge waited for the approving smile that she was quite sure of, and which a moment later greeted

"It is all very pretty, dear; almost as dainty as my Madge herself."

Mrs. Grey slipped her arm lovingly around the girl, who stood looking out across the shaded lawn to the read up which the doctor was soon to drive with their guests. As the bright morning light streamed across her, on its way into and around the room, it lighted up a sweet, calm, rather thoughtfu young face, whose faint rose tints and soft, golden brown hair even the searching sunlight seemed to think needed no coloring save that nature had already so kindly given.

They seemed more like sisters, these two, standing with arms entwined, a happy illustration of the loving confiand affection that had always exirted between them So Grace and Donald are coming at

Poor children! These two years have been lonely ones to them; no one can fill the place of such a mother as Mary was. "No, indeed," Madge held her own a little tighter. "But their aunt really does her best to make them comfortable

"I believe Donald misses his mother more than Grace does. He finished col-

lege a year before her death, didn't he, dear? and was at home almost constantly during those last months, while poor little Grace spent them at the con-

Yes; and in one of her last letters

vent.

mother, she said: 'When I think of that, it almost breaks my heart."

At this moment the door flew open, and in rushed a little object that but half an hour before nurse had "finished" and called a "neaf little gentleman," in the hope that conscious pride, once excited, might triumph over sundry temptations to be found in the vicinity of the stable, hen house, cellar door and back fence, and which, we regret to say, were as a rule yielded to without a struggle, and with frequent fatal results to differ-

ent articles of wearing apparel.
"Ted, Ted! Oh, Teddy, what shall we do with you?" What, indeed, should they, could they, do, with this hatless, coatless, grimy little individual, who had only breath enough to exclaim: "They're comin', they're comin'! Seen 'em from th' back gate!" and subsided into the nearest chair, where nurse soon captured and carried him off for necssary repairs.

Yes, you might, in all probability, call him troublesome, but what boys are not? And where, if you please, could be found such another warm, loving heart, such a winsome face, such a pair

of great brown eves? Yes, they were coming, had come, and soon the little party were merrily chatting, while the hot coffee, honey and "wacubs," as Ted called them, rapidly disappeared.

Donald Durant's father, dying, had left the greater part of his fortune in the hands of his wife, to be used by her during her lifetime, and at her death to be divided between their two children. But Donaid, then a little curly-headed fellow of 10, had been named sole heir to the large cotton mills which had, in the process of time, transformed a quaint, sleepy little village, whose dull monotony was only broken by the advent of its weekly paper, into one of the thrifty manufacturing towns of New England. As the village grew, then came new demands. Former luxuries seemed bare necessities to the rising generation. Old, homely, time-honored customs and pleasures, when viewed from a modern standpoint, appeared more worthy of ridicule than indulgence.

In this little town, years before, Dr. Grey and Daniel Durant had first met, and the mutual liking, ripening into firm friendship, cast its genial glow around the two families, drawing them closer together in love and sympathy as

the years crept along.
So Grace and Donald, coming to the fireside of these friends, felt for the first time since their mother's death a return of that old home atmosphere which seemed to have about it both the bitter and the sweet.

Coming down one evening, as Madge thought, some time before any of the others had finished dressing, she made her way to the little music room, which had been fitted up by the unwilling upholsterer in a way which greatly vexed the poor man's conventional soul. It boasted of nothing particularly fashion-able nor elegant in its furnishings, but you entered with a sigh of pleasure, sure of perfect comfort in the old sleepy hollow, the old rocker, or the deep cushioned window seat with its pile of downy headrests.

So Donald seemed to think, for there she found him with head esconced among the pillows, softly humming an air improvised for the occasion.
"Dreaming, Donald?" asked she. coming across the room aiready half dark in the growing twilight, and seating herself in a little corner left by the

llows she allowed her hand to reach out and smooth the fair, curly head. 'No, not this time. I thinking, Midget; am afraid I shall leave you all for a few days; there is some bother at Bolton about the mills, and Simpson says he wants to see me

"Oh, Donald! It cannot be anything of importance at this time of year; isn't it probable that-' "Don't know what's up, but old Simp-

son wouldn't say 'come' unless it were necessary. "I suppose not; but it is so long since we have seen you! I do hate to have our pleasant times all broken up! Why it seems as though you all have only

been here two or three days instead of weeks. "Well, we must make the best of it I am sure it won't be half so dismal for you girls as for me, with not a blessed thing to do in the long evenings except," with a laugh, "when I run in

to see my little sweetheart." "Your sweetheart! Why, Donald, you never even told me you had one!" And rising Madge walked toward the window, giving him a glance of indignant surprise that might have done full jus-

tice to a much worse state of affairs.

That look or the reproachful words or both, evidently produced an impression of some sort, for the young fellow rose with an uneasy laugh, strolled around for a time in an aindess fashion, and finally seating himself before the piano allowed his fingers to stray idly among the keys, which, responding to his mood and touch, gave forth a quick, impatient cry, now a low, sweet, minor strain. It was the lad's heart, not the cold, white bits of ivory, that was speaking there in the dusky twilight, and so Madge felt instinctively, although the thought had not clothed itself in words, \* \* \* \* \*

Donald had gone. Not until the last faint echo of receding wheels died away did Mrs. Grey and the girls turn from the veranda, where but a moment since there had been such a pleasant con-fusion of voices. Now how quiet it all was! As they entered the hall the old clock seemed to be making a veritable

Madge was thoroughly wretched, and when a letter came from Donald, kind, friendly, confidential, saying that he was weary of waiting, and meant to have the momentous question settled definitely, one way or the other, she felt that her cup was indeed full to over-

flowing.
"I shall offer her an honest heart, a clean hand," read the girl. "If she cares enough for me to take them I shall be a very happy man. If not-oh, Madge, it will be a bitter disappointment, but I can try and bear it as a man should. Lose her though I may, my life will al-ways be brighter and better for having known and loved her. Will you wish me good luck? Somehow I feel rather superstitious about your doing that; you know some of our scientists claim that we often exert an unconscious influence over things and beings at a distance; perhaps

that is why?" "It is too much! I cannot, cannot do it!" and the pretty brown eyes filled with tears.

We learn that we have misjudged our capacity for endurance; the cry, "I could not bear that, I could bear anything else, but not that," is uttered in good faith, but it is false; "that" is the very thing we have to bear, and we can bear and we do bear.

For a time Madge struggled to keep back the tears that would come at the thought of all she must do. The letter might be left unanswered, her trouble was easily disposed of, but only for the time being; a day was coming when Donald would require of them all to welcome and love this stranger, and her greeting must not be less warm nor real than the others.

It was a hard fight, and many, many tears were shed, but it was over, and into the tired heart and fevered spirit was creeping a calm, sweet peace, cool and refreshing as the summer shower to the thirsty little field flowers stretching out their tiny arms in grateful love to the welcome drops.

When Donald arrived they were all in the library, and amid the pleasant commotion that followed Madge's embarrassment passed unnoticed; again, too, at supper, Donald was in the best of

"Evidently affairs are arranged to your satisfaction." Mr. Grey remarked. "Yes, sir, quite so."

The others smiled and seemed glad, but Madge felt a vicious little tug at her heartstrings at the bright, happy tones of the voice answering father's questions: simple that might be, but not so Donald's reply, else why the quick smile, immediately greeting her, as their eyes met for an instant across the table? It was only a moment, but Madge felt as if she knew then, without any further telling, how that other question had been settled—if question it might be called; for what sort of girl nust she be who could look into that face and answer "No?"

The early part of the evening passed pleasantly, but after the doctor had left for the village, and Mrs. Grey had taken her departure on homely thoughts in-tent, Madge felt that the atmosphere was growing rather heavy, and soon she was quite clear of it, for Grace, giving some excuse, what it matters not rose and left the room, serenely unconscious of two brown eyes wistfully following the tail of her gown as it disappeared through the doorway.

Now our Madge was as far from being weak or silly as she was from being a model of impossible perfection, and it did not take her long to gather wits and self-possession "Has father told you of his patients,

"Patients? No; why should he?" "He had two calls from the village today, and they look like typhoid fever. Dr. Mitchell has a suspicious case, too.

afternoon, and they are a little afraid of an epidemic. "Of typhoid fever? What will he do with you all?" "There's not much danger for us here; we are too far out of the village. Father

He and father held a consultation this

says if it should come he would stay here, and you—you would take Grace back. We all hope it will prove nothing but a scare—if not—" She hesitated, then stopped short.

"Go on, Madge, go on; if not,?" "The last time we had anything of the sort, years ago, most of the women were terribly afraid. Nurses were hard to find; mother was one of the few to volunteer and her hands were more than full. I was simply going to say that if it happened again I should go with her." 'Oh! and you think I would sneak off

like a coward, while you two brave little women were ready to risk your lives. My! what a glorious spectacle of modern chivalary it would be!" "You know I did not mean it that way, Donald; some one would have to take

Grace out of danger."
"I don't believe it is anything more than a scare; but if it is, I shall certainly take Grace to Aunt Florrie, and just as certainly, little lady, will I be back on the very next day."
"No, Donald," and Madge looked over

with a sweet smile, "you would not do that; some one else has a right to demand that you keep out of danger, and for her sake you will.
"See here Madge! We had better
put a stop to this sort of thing right

here. I thought after it started that you would have understood long ago."
"Donald!" The words came clear and sharp, very unlike Madge's usual soft tones. "Understand what? What do you mean?'

'Mean? I mean all this stuff about a 'somebody else', the idiotic letter I wrote, and that you have taken so literally; the conclusions you jumped at the night before I left, and the misunderstandings in consequence; it all came from my talking of Tom's baby—Tom, my old classmate. We always call the baby Sweetheart, and when you took the other for granted, I, like a fool, let it run on because-because-

Glancing at Madge, he had stopped short. It seemed a different person from the Madge he had always known who sat there now. The lips were pressed together until they had lost all their pretty color; the sweet face was cold, stern, almost bitter in its expression. The brown eyes were looking straight at him, but where was the old kindly light? Was it any wonder? As the girl thought of all she had been made to suffer in consequence of this joke, she did not feel in any kindly mood.

You have not quite finished. Donald: please go on. You did this thing be-Courage born of desperation shone on

the young man's face. "Because I wanted to know whether you would care. When at first you seemed startled, I grew all too confident and happy, so much so that I almost lost my head; you remember? The idea of that letter came to me one night; wrote at long after midnight, and said that the outcome of it should shape my course for me. Foolish, if you like, but oh. Madge, I loved you so.'

The face he watched was not quite so stern, and now the lips quivered for a "Then I waited, waited, and as the

days went by with no answer, I grew more and more impatient to get back where I might hear the truth from your own lips." Then the deep, rich tones Then the deep, rich tones faltered and the voice grew low with pain as he added: "Though I know it now, without. I am sorry, terribly sorry about the miserable misunderstanding: but, Midget, as you don't care for me, why should that have bothered

Little by little, as he had spoken, the sold, unnatural look faded from the girlish face, and now a new light was trembling there For the first time since his return Donald heard the old happy laugh, but to his glad cars how much sweeter it seemed than ever be

The pretty brown eyes looked up at him through a mist of happy tears, two hands were reached out and tightly clasped within his own before the last sweet echo of the girl's "But I do care, Donald!" had floated through the open window and away on the soft, sweet scented air of the summer night.

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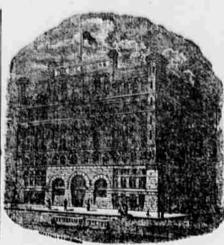
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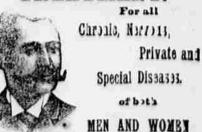
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