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VNiVERSITAS
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SALAMANTiNI
A VIGORNIAN MONOLOGUE

[4]

V.

Noa, I cornt sahy as I be peart. I be deouced baad. I bin queer an' comical a lung while; an' I corn't scarcely scrawl about. 'Tyeant the rheumatic, but a 'ad th' influenzee wen a wuz so baad about, an' it settled in ma fit and legs, but the swelth 'ave gone down 'oonderful. I 'asn't no desprit lot of pahin, but sometimes it be teart, an' I 'ollers out. But I 'opes come waarm weather a shall be better.

Th' 'ooman well? Noa, 'er be wuss nor I be. 'Er be desprit middlin'. 'Er 'an't bin out o' th' 'ouse these manny wiks. 'Er 'aven't bin well as a mahy shay not ever since las' plum-pickin time. 'Er wuz that baad, 'er wuz obigated to send for th' doctor, an' 'e come to see 'er, an' 'e said as 'er wuzn't to go out wotever. You've ketched two or three cowlds, one atop o' the t'other, 'e says, an' it's settled in your jints an' the spine o' your back, an' 't 'll take ye a lung time t' overgit it. 'Er's 'a poor crittur got, an' 's foked t' ave 'er niece to wait ov 'er, 'er corn't 'ardly do nothin' fur 'erself.

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An' th' doctor 'e sent 'er two bottles o' mixture an' some pills, an' some lotion water, an' 'e said as 'er wuz to 'ave nourishin' things an' port wined; an' th' squire's lady 'er 've bin very good to we, an' gin we lots o' things. A dunno 'ow us shood 'a ruggled on ef 't 'adn't bin for thahy.

But th' little gurl, 'er adn't niver bin awahy fro' 'ome afore, an' wen 'er fust come 'er did n't like th' looks o' 'er aunt an' 'er said as 'er 'oodn't stahy, an' 'er waanted to go whoam; an' 'er 'oodn't live o' we woterver, 'er felt the miss o' the t'other young uns. But 'er 's better sotisfied now. An' 'er mutther 'er come over an' sin 'er, an' 'er ood 'a come agen, only a 've bin shiftin' 'ousel, an' gone t' live the t'other side o' Mudford.

The wust is, we does n't git no pace nights; sometimes 'er corn't git no slip, an' 'er 's as weary as weary. An' sometimes 'er 's mombled, an' hall hover th' plaace, an' does n't know whur 'er be, an' 'er talks hall manner. But the doctor 'e says as we bean't to take no notice on it; as it's wikness, an' 'er 'll come roun' arter a bit.

A fine thin' is 'ealth; but ef us corn't 'ave it, a corn't 'elp it, an' a mus' be sotisfied, a spose. I minds the time wen I wuz niver aildin', niver knaowed wot 'it was to be baad an' frain ma fittle. Folkses 'as it different wahys. I be thankful a niver lightened ov a baad haccident, as so many does; niver 'ad no broken bwones. Thur wuz Jahn Clad, 'e wuz puttin' a lap o' thatchin' o' th' ruff o' th' 'ovel the t'other dahy an' th' lather broak an' loosed 'e down, an' 'e wuz shook desprit, an' broak 'is ancl-e. Might 'a bin wuss. A might 'a bin a dyud mon. Wull! Thur be allus summut or another fur hevery body, to bring 'em to thur end. An' a ought to be prepaard; but a yeant.