

# THE BRITISH WORKWOMAN.





"We are both well, thanks."

Robin Ellis hears against the doorpost, and looks anxiously into the scullery door before him.

"Have I offended you?" he says, quickly.

"Oh, no," says Amy, smiling. "Indeed you have not."

His brow clears a little, and he moves nearer to her.

"Maudie's I novels, and see the—the child?"

"She is noisy."

"Why haven't you been out lately? You didn't run, go to church on Sunday," he mutters, still keeping his eye fixed on his troubled face, and wondering what is the matter.

"Mr. Lirick," he says, suddenly—"Amy, has any one been setting you against me?" But he goes on, he cries, smiling like sun quickly. "You must answer me. You don't know how you have pained me the last few days. Why won't you speak to me? Why do you turn your face away?"

"Let me go!" cries Amy. "You have no right to keep me. You have no right to call—"

"Yes I have," he says, suddenly, "because I love you; because I want you for my wife."

"But—"

"I won't listen. I won't have any 'buts.' I love the child—you know I do. I will be a father to her. Amy, and love her as my own. You see that me?"

You must have seen how I love you both."

"No," he says.

"Do not answer me now. Think it over, and tell me in the morning; but I shall not see you for a week. Do not say me 'no'."

He goes away as quickly as he had come, and Amy stands alone in the hall, feeling her face hot with shame. She has been waiting for this, and now it has come. She does not know if she is glad or sorry.

The following morning Amy watches from her window the fishing-boat getting ready to sail. There is a light breeze out to-day, and the waves ripple curiously in the wind. The sky is cloudless. No one could fair the sea to-day; but it is not the sea she is gazing so intently. She is watching, with a smile on her face, the eager, leaping form of Robin, as he turns so often towards her, and goes so wistfully up at her window. He cannot see her from where he is, but he is waiting very impatiently for a sign.

The boat's ready to be off, but she does not go; he sits on the edge of the boat and waits. Ten minutes later the breeze disperses from his back, and his eyes brighten, for he sees two figures coming along, and he waits gladly, but he does not move. He has not waited in vain.

He stands up in his boat as they come to the side, and leans down to her.

"They want to go for a sail," says Amy, shyly. "Will you take her?"

"You will trust her with me?"

One moment's hesitation, and then she lifts up her face, and says, "Yes, I will."

He takes her into his arms, and puts her into his arms.

"Let me take her to-day," she says, gently. "I am going right out to sea. Ah! aren't you glad, you little hypocrite?"

"I have waited so long for you, haven't you a word for me today?"

"What am I to say?" she whispers.

"Say I may have a share in this article," he mutters, blushing the while, looking low.

"You—you may, if you like."

His face grows very tender as he looks into her eyes, and gives her back her hand. It was his share from that hour forth—she alone, to the heart, of Amy Lirick.

MATTHEW ST. JOHN.

TREASURES FROM THE DEEP.

It is a universal opinion, when we think of what the sea yields our minds are rather apt to dwell on the things that are beneath the waves.

It is a little thing, but it is a thing, we shall see, that the fishy tribe constitute only a portion of the wealth which nature is ever pouring forth.

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some, to say nothing of those engaged in distributing the fish after it is caught; but in different parts of the world, the fish is not only a source of food, but a source of wealth.

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most of us know, the appearance of a branching shark without leaves, of a red or rose colour (we are speaking now of the fish, not of the coral), and of a compact and solid.

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of ways—the skin or hide of alligators and crocodiles, which is got up as to present a very beautiful and finished appearance, and is used in making portmanteaus, bags, valises, and a variety of useful articles, as a substitute for leather—more expensive in the first instance, but cheap in the long run because of its durability. The "scales" of the animal are well marked, and in a way that can hardly be imitated, though attempts are made to do so. Of the lasting quality of this material the present writer has had some life experience with two or three small items, one of which is a purse that has been in constant use for years, and is for all practical purposes as good as new. The same may be said of a pocket pincushion. The writer has also a ring of what is called "shark-skin," but which is really the skin of the ray, a fish of the shark family. This material takes a beautiful polish, and it is capable of being turned to useful account in a variety of ways. The writer has seen "false" work-tables and other like articles, the surface of which was made of ray-skin. The trade in alligator hides, &c., may be formed some idea of when it is stated that one firm in London imports sixteen or seventeen thousand in a year, and in America it is actually proposed that alligator farms shall be established in order to meet the demand. Seal-skins, sea-urvy, shells, of various kinds, bangles, and a number of other things suggest themselves in a paper of this kind, but space forbids.

C. H.

**TRADE AND PUBLIC LIFE.**  
Mr. Uthelston, a very Englishman known, is the son of a Liverpool merchant, while his Bright lives close to his mill on the fringe of the moor at Rochdale. Mr. Fowler is a prominent member of the firm whose enterprise has brought wealth into the retired region of Upper Wharfedale; Sir Charles Delves is the grandson of the founder and is actually owner of *The Athenaeum*; Mr. Chamberlain has only within a few years retired from the manufacture of wool-scrows, as they are called, in order to devote himself to political life; Mr. Mandella manufactures hosiery; Lord Doolley is a coal merchant and iron manufacturer, and is one of a long list of Peers who, like Lord Londonderry, "run" their own collieries or let them to their own collieries or let them to their own collieries like those of Jarraw and Middleborough. Lord Ardilaun is a brewer, like Mr. Stanfield, and Mr. Bosc Lord Wimborne is an innkeeper; Lord Jersey is a hawker, like Sir John Lubbock, the Berrys, Glyves, and Hothelldes; and the well-known names of Mappin, Colman, Palmer, Fairbairn, Fiskin, Henry, Jackson, Hope, Jardine, Leatham, and others too numerous to mention, testify to the close alliance between trade and the public life of England.

Daily News.

## Thoughts on the Life of St. Peter.

St. Peter at Pentecost.—Acts ii. 1-21.

**M**OST important time had now come to St. Peter. Christ had told His disciples to wait at Jerusalem for a special purpose. Of what that purpose was we read in St. Luke xiv. 48: "I used the promise of My Father upon you." Was this a "promise"? The Lord Jesus before His death had spoken fully of it. He had told His

disciples that after He left them the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, would come to them (St. John xiv. 16, 17, 26; chap. xvi. 7 to 15). After their Lord had been taken up from them into heaven, the apostles waited ten days in expectation. And then, at the Feast of Pentecost, fifty days after His Passover, "suddenly" the promise was fulfilled: "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing, mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting; and there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost" (Acts ii. 2, 3, 4).

There were outward signs here of the presence of the Holy Spirit—wind and fiery tongues.



wind and fire exercise a purifying power. The wind blows away the position, and the fire burns up the weeds that mar the ground. It is just this work that is needed for our church. God's information only never lasts. The heart must be occupied by the Spirit of God; then step by step all things become new.

Special gifts of the Spirit were needed by the apostles. They were unlearned men, and they had a great work to do in a new world. How could this be done? How could the gospel of Christ be spread among different people and various languages? God gave the gift of tongues for this need and for this time.

Jerusalem was full of strangers at the time of Pentecost, yet when the "fiery tongues" ended upon the apostles, "every man heard speak in his own tongue the wonderful works of God." (What a great miracle was this! Now missionaries have to study long and earnestly the languages of other countries. At Pentecost in a moment all languages came easily to the lips of the apostles. This was just the opposite of Babel (Gen. xi. 4). Then, for man's pride, divers tongues were given, and man never understood. The gospel of Jesus Christ brings men together. Peter now stands forth, while all wonder and some mocked. It was the same earnest, warm-hearted Peter, ready to speak and to act; but it was Peter guided now by God's spirit. He defends his brethren against the charge of the mockers that they were "full of new wine," and he declares the fulfillment of God's word: "This is that which was spoken of the prophet Joel. And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God; I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh, &c. (v. 10 to 21). This is a remarkable passage. Part of it was fulfilled in the day of Pentecost; for the spirit was poured out then; and the latter part of the passage, in which we read, "The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come" (v. 20), still remains to be fulfilled. "The signs in heaven" are not yet realized. The time seems to be the same as that we read of in Rev. vi. 12-17, when the "stars of heaven fall," and the "sun becomes black as sackcloth of hair." If one part of the prophecy has been fulfilled, may we not think that the other will be? It was a long time from the days of Joel to Pentecost, 800 years; and yet God's word came to pass. It has been a long time from Pentecost until now, more than 1800 years; but God's word will come to pass. We have before us here Peter's first sermon. The conclusion of that sermon, and the result of it, must be left for further consideration. Peter speaks as a man who had the Spirit of God. The great question for ourselves is, "Have we the Spirit?" There are two important verses in the Book of Romans. One is: "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (v. 11). This is the comforting—the blessed—side of the subject. "The sons of God!" What wonderful language! It is a great thing—a high position—to be a son of the Queen of England. But how far higher is the position of a "son of God!" The other important verse is: "If ye have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." This is indeed a solemn warning. We seem to hear the voice of the Lord Jesus saying to us, "If ye have not the Spirit, ye cannot do with Me. I desire that ye should be with Me, as I am with Him in His kingdom by-and-by. May the blessed prayer ever be for the souls of our readers, 'O God, for Christ's sake, give us Thy holy Spirit!'"

Wind and fire are both powerful agents. The first is not seen, but is heard and felt; the second is both seen and felt. The Holy Spirit is unmeasured sometimes to that which is gentle and silent, as the dove and the dew. But when first He came it was to be with power, fulfilling our Lord's promise before His ascension: "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you" (Acts i. 8). There is always power when the Spirit of God enters the heart. There is a power in the heart that needs to be overthrown. The "spice of this world" is in the heart, and he will not be driven out without power, and the only power that will drive him out is that of the Spirit of God. Has that power touched us yet? It is the power of a new life (St. John ii. 5, 8). This power purifies. We know that both

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## Little Lav.



WAS sitting alone in my room one afternoon in winter, when I heard a knock at the door—a low tap—and as I had not my little maid on an errand, I went and went to see who might be there. I found that it was a little girl—such a strange-looking figure—muffled in an old red and black shawl; but two of the largest, brightest black eyes I had ever seen were peering out of it.

"Well, my child, what do you want?" asked I.

"Please, ma'am, are you Miss Groves?" she said in sharp, ringing tones.

"Yes."

"And you keep the Band of Hope?"

I could not help smiling at the question, though I understood her meaning, for the Band of Hope met at my house every week, so other places in the neighbourhood being available; so I replied, "Yes, do you wish to join?"

She nodded her head emphatically.

"Our meetings are held on Wednesday evenings, so if you come to-morrow at half-past six o'clock, you can be enrolled as a member."

"Lizzie Williams told me best the book, and I could sign the pledge any time," she returned in a disappointed tone.

"But I think you would rather do it to-morrow at the meeting," I said.

"Oh, but I can't come then—'cause you see father'll be home, and he won't let me, and I do want to be a teetotaler so bad."

"And so you shall, of course," I rejoined.

"Come in, my dear; I'll get the book, and you can sign at once."

She responded to my invitation with alacrity, and followed me into my sitting-room, where I made her take off her shawl and all by the fire while I went to fetch the pledge-book. When she had loosened all the wrappings I saw that she was dressed very shabbily, and the mass of black curly hair was rough and tangled, and did not give evidence of any mother's pride and care. I am always interested in children, especially in my Band of Hope boys and girls, and I felt that it will be hard on me to see respecting their homes, so as to suit one's advice to the various circumstances.

"And why are you so anxious to sign our pledge?" I asked.

"Because the drink's a real bad thing," she returned, with such energy that I could hardly help smiling; "it makes our dad so awful cross, you know," she added, confidentially, "and then he takes all our things too and jama to get drink with."

I sighed; the child's statement was true of many mother-fathers, as I knew well, even of that one town.

"What is your name, my child, and where do you live?"

"Up in Mark's Lane, near 'erren, and my name's Lavinia Edith Morgan."

"Rather a grand one," I said, with a smile; "but what are you generally called?"

"Lar," Mother meant me to be called "Tina."

"Have you a mother living?"

She shook her head. "No, she died a long time back, when Little Arab was a baby. We lived right in the country then. There were three of us before Baby died, and father took to the drink. We were very happy in the country."

"When was a baby did you say?"

"Arab. Her real name's Arabella, you see. She's very near six years old."

"And so you think your father would not allow you to come to our meetings?"

"I am sure he won't."

"Do you suppose he would if I were to ask him?"

frightened, there all by herself. You'll let me bring her soon to be made a teetotaler too, won't you?"

"If you choose, my dear. Why didn't she come to-day?"

"Oh, she wasn't very well—her throat's so bad, she she couldn't see so much; she shall come directly she gets better."

I explained the pledge to little Lavinia, who seemed fully to comprehend its meaning, and promised her with a pledge-card; and soon after she took her leave.

The days passed on, but I neither saw my hand anything more of the child, and I began to feel rather uneasy, and wonder what could have kept her from bringing her little sister as she had promised. She had excited my interest and my pity, and as I thought

of the two motherless little ones, with only the protection of a drunken father, and remembered how the child had said her sister was poorly, I could not rest. So one afternoon early, when I thought I was least likely to encounter their parent, I set out for Mark's Lane.

I found it at last—one of those narrow dirty streets with which I was tolerably familiar—alighted on number eleven, and found the door just as I had fancied it.

There in a dirty bed I found little Arab, and her waiting upon her with devoted tenderness. She was seriously ill. I could tell at once, and she took little notice of me.

"Has not your father sent for a doctor?" I inquired.

"No, he was out-py last night, and he was gone this morning before I could tell him how bad Arab was."

I asked Lav in a fearful voice, that showed she knew the danger her sister was in.

"And is there no one to do anything for her but you?"

"No, Mrs. Driscoll came in for a bit at first, but she thinks 'is diphtheria Arab's got—so she's afraid she'll catch it and give it to her own little girl."

I stayed with the children for some time, trying to persuade the little one's comfort as well as I could; but I was relieved when I heard the father's step on the stair.

"This child is very ill," I said gravely, without introducing myself at all; "she needs medical aid, I am sure."

As I spoke the women with which he had agreed to go to an apothecary, and after a little further conversation he went out to call in a doctor.

But I will not add, you will be told of little Arab's illness and death—for she passed away to that happier land, never to feel the sorrows and privations of earth more, or to grovel over a father's drunkenness.

Poor little girl, that fretted terribly, and she too fell ill of the same disease, but recovered from it. During the time of this sickness Mr. Morgan was obliged to grow sterner, and live less time at the ale-house; but no sooner was Lar absent again, perceiving her daily tasks, than he returned to his old ways. But though there was the same dark, dreary home—more lonely than ever without the presence of little



"WE WERE VERY HAPPY IN THE COUNTRY."—See Page 53.

"No, that he wouldn't; it makes him cross to have ladies go and talk to him about tea. There was one up at the church wanted us to go to Sunday school, and asked Dad to let us, but he told her he shouldn't, and he wished folks 'od mind their own business, and not trouble themselves with other people's. He wasn't so cross and rude, you know, before he had so much drink—so mother used to say."

I could understand that; for there is nothing that so dulls a person's sensibilities, or renders a parent more indifferent to his children's interests, temper, or spiritual, as the passion for drink. Poor little Lar! I could picture the cheerless home, and the hard, loveless life passed within it.

"I must go now," said the child, rising and wrapping her shawl around her, "or Arab will be

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