

"No medicine will do us good; it is food we need. As you will not help me to marry my daughter, we are only eating just enough to keep us alive, as it will be an everlasting disgrace to the whole of us not to give her to the man to whom we betrothed her when she was five years of age. His mother has sent to know if the girl is ready, as she is of full age." She said also "You know how difficult it is for me to feed her. When she is married I shall only have to divide the food between four, where now I have to make five portions." She begged so hard for just a little help, and said the clothes could be of the plainest and cheapest kind, only they must be of the highest shape. I said I would think the matter over, for the sad pinched faces were too much for me. That night I could not

sleep, for those sad faces haunted me. I thought "How often have I given £5 for one coat and skirt, and thought nothing about it; and yet, for less than that, a girl and her whole family could be made happy." Next morning I sent for the mother, and asked her what she needed or the girl. I had dear old Malbibi with me to hear if the woman spoke the truth, and to arrange as to colour, length, &c., of the garments. I must say I was more than amused when the mother came to a piece of soap for the bath, and antimony for painting under the eyes, henna for beautifying her nails, and pins for ornamenting her crown.

I asked, "Well, and how much will it cost?" Malbibi said, "Oh! let her go now, and we will think about money after." I knew by her manner she was pleased, and would help. So I said to her when the woman had left, "Malbibi, why did you speak so sharp, telling the woman to go before we had quite settled the matter?" She said, "You are giving the things; the price is nothing to do with her—you leave that to me. Have I not married my own girls? It is her first; she knows nothing about it." Then she said, "Miss, I will have everything ready and beautiful in three weeks." "But," I said, "the cost, Malbibi?" "Oh!" she said, "I will get everything ready first, and then you can pay." I said: "No, that is not our English custom; we like to have some idea first, or you may spend much more than I am able to pay

for." She got cross at that, and said, "Oh, no! you will be pleased." I heard no more for two weeks, and then one morning, to my surprise, she came in with a great bundle on her head, and laid it at my feet and said: "I have been quick, have I not, getting the wedding garments ready? When you have seen them we must call both mothers to see the lovely things, and won't they be pleased!"

She undid one thing after another for the bride—a pretty dark-red dress and a nice dark-blue relieved with a narrow red cord, two white under-garments, green boots with paste buckles, a crown of red Turkey twill, two veils, soap, comb, antimony, four silver earrings, and four finger-rings, a bag of rice, and a bowl of oil. Then she opened another bundle, con-

taining a dress for the mother, veil and crown, and the same for the two little sisters, only worked caps, not the crown, as the crown is only for married women. For the little brother there was a cap and suit. I was more than pleased with the things, but I said, "You see, Malbibi, I had no idea of giving to the whole family; I really cannot afford so much." She looked astonished, and said, "You cannot marry a girl and let her mother, sisters, and brother appear in rags, rags, rags." "Well," I said, "tell me now the prices," and I was astonished and ashamed of myself, when she put the grand total to me, to



Miss Elizabeth Newman. Miss Foy. Rukam Didi. Malbibi.

think how often I had spent more on one dress and yet I had felt so anxious about this matter. That evening Malbibi went with the news to the mothers to say the things were ready. I shall never forget the glad joy on the face of the girl's mother. Had they cost ten times as much, that calm, grateful smile would have more than repaid me. So on Friday last we had a very happy day. At midnight the bride was taken to her future home. May she be very happy!

Yours very sincerely,

ELIZABETH NEWMAN.

Miss Cabaniss, who is the President of the Virginia State Association of Graduate Nurses, and was appointed by the Governor of the State to serve on the Board of Examiners, has been elected its President.

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