

After the funeral, good Madame Berne tells her: "I have something to confess to you. On the day after your poor father died we tried to get you to answer some questions. . . . I therefore took it upon myself to telegraph in order that your relations might be acquainted with what had occurred."

Now the man who died was not Babette's father, but her stepfather, and his belongings absolutely unknown to the girl, but she allows his family to adopt her and lavish their affection and money upon her, quite unsuspecting of the fact that she has no claim either to the one or the other.

Sir Hubert thought "It was extraordinary that I should be expecting a grown-up grandchild whom I have never set eyes on, of whose very existence I have not known till within these last few weeks. It's extraordinary that Stephen should have been a father and I never have had a word from him; that now he should be dead."

"Miss Redstone came quickly into the room, eager, and much excited.

"Dear, dearest father, here we are! I've brought her with me. Here is our little Babette! Here is your granddaughter," she cried.

"Sir Hubert came down the steps of the dais, holding out both his hands.

"In the growing dusk he could just see a very slight, black-robed figure and the gleam of fair hair. 'You are welcome to your home, granddaughter,' said he.

"Babette said nothing whatever."

Complications arise when Babette's real father appears on the scene. He had deserted his wife when the girl was a child, and she, believing him to be dead, had married Stephen Redstone.

"In proportion to her gratitude to her stepfather had been her contemptuous dislike for the very memory of her real father.

"I went to Madame Berne's boarding-house on the day on which you left it," said Jethro Cole. "I meant to claim you then, but you had taken the matter into your own hands; you had provided yourself with a fine grandfather and a couple of aunts."

"Then if I had waited I should not have starved," said Babette.

"Babette looked at her real father standing before her now. This was no contemptible skulker. No! If she had waited for him she need not have starved."

Conscience at last compels her to confess her deceit to Sir Hubert, and though he dies heart-broken with his disappointment, everything ends quite happily for Babette, which seems rather unfair.

This story cannot lay claim to distinction, but it will be very popular with many readers.

H. H.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

A diamond in the rough
Is a diamond sure enough;
For although it may not sparkle,
It is made of diamond stuff.
But when it's found and when it's ground
And when it's burnished bright,
That diamond everlastingly
Is flashing out its light.

COMING EVENTS.

December 2nd.—Meeting of Nursing Masque Committee. 431, Oxford Street, W. 4.30 p.m.

December 2nd.—London Co-operation of Nurses. Needlework Guild At Home and Show of Needlework, Howard de Walden Home, 35, Langham Street, 3.30 p.m.

December 3rd.—St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses' League General Meeting. Clinical Lecture Theatre, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C. 3 p.m. Social Gathering, 4 p.m.

December 3rd.—Executive Committee of the League of St. John's House Nurses. 3 p.m.

December 6th.—Irish Nurses' Association. Lecture: "Massage and its Use in Common Ailments," by T. Douglas Good, Esq., M.D., 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, 7.30 p.m.

December 7th.—Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Lecture on "The Nursing of Neurasthenic and Hysterical Patients," by Dr. Edwin Bramwell. All trained nurses cordially invited. Extra-Mural Medical Theatre. 4.30 p.m.

December 12th.—Hammersmith and Fulham District Nursing Association. Miss Curtis and the Nurses At Home. Hammersmith Town Hall, 4 to 6.30 p.m.

December 13th.—Territorial Force Nursing Service, City and County of London. Meeting, Grand Committee, Mansion House, E.C., 4 p.m.

December 13th and 15th.—Central Midwives' Board. Special Meetings to deal with Penal Cases. Caxton House, S.W., 2 p.m.

December 16th.—Central Midwives' Board Examination. Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, London, W.C.

THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The official organ of the Nurses' Missionary League announces the following At Homes:—

AT HOMES.

London: Miss Richardson will be "At Home" to District and Private Nurses, on the second Wednesday in each month, at 52, Lower Sloane Street, from 2.30—5.30 p.m. There will be a Bible Circle on the Bible Study Notes for the previous week.

Nottingham: Miss B. B. de Lasalle "At Home" on the first Wednesdays at 4, Derby Terrace, The Park, 3—5 p.m.

Leeds: Mrs. Ewing "At Home" on second Thursdays at 11, Blenheim Terrace, from 3—5 p.m., and 6—8 p.m.

Manchester: Miss Broadbent "At Home" on third Mondays, at Elmhurst, Victoria Park, from 5—6 p.m.

Glasgow: Miss Robertson "At Home" on first Sundays, at 2, Lynedoch Place, from 4.30—6 p.m.

Sunderland: Mrs. Raw "At Home" on fourth Wednesdays from October to May, at 12, Grange Crescent from 3.30—6 p.m.

Southampton: Mrs. Winnington-Ingram will be "At Home" at Cranbourne, Winn Road, any afternoon during the winter, by appointment.

Liverpool: Mrs. Bird "At Home" at 93, Arundel Avenue, Sefton Park.

In addition to these, Miss Richardson will still be "At Home" every Wednesday morning as usual.

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