

**Selected Story.**

**When the Ship Comes in.**

(CONTINUED.)

It was the habit of this firm to pay a sort of pension monthly to the widows of captains who were lost in the service. It was not much of a stipend, being only half pay, but it was certainly a blessing in very many cases. Mrs. Selter had always received her husband's money here while he was at sea, or it was sent to her when she was sick, or the weather bad.

'Ah, Mr. Tawman, I'm sure the Good Luck will be in to-day.'

'Certainly it will! What's to hinder it!' he answers.

He puts the child down and goes over to his desk, and unlocking a drawer, he takes out an account book and begins writing a receipt, then goes over into the cashier's room. While he is there the telegraph clerk calls him over.

'Click, clickety click!' goes the magic instrument, repeating its dot and dash message.

'Hear that!' says the operator. 'That's news for you.' The proprietor could read every word by its sound.

'It's like a message from God,' says Mr. Tawman, reverently. 'I must not tell her.'

He comes back to where the woman is sitting, his face is flushed with emotion; some strange excitement. He throws into her lap a bundle of bank notes.

'There, Mrs. Selter, now go home. Take a car at the door.'

'Oh, I'm not tired. And I should like to be here when the brig comes in. But I thank you so much, so much.'

'Here, little one,' says the good-hearted Tawman, 'here's something for you to buy candies with.' He put into her tiny, outstretched palm a bright quarter of a dollar, and laughs at the wonder and delight of the little recipient.

'I'll keep this for my papa.' Poor little thing! she is weary unto sleep. She cuddles herself in the big chair, and sinks into slumber in an instant.

'Now, Mrs. Selter, you have had no dinner,' says Tawman.

'Oh, yes, sir.'

'Yesterday, perhaps; but I mean to-day. Go down with Mr. Pelton here, our young man, and get something to eat. You see, we have arrangements here for the comfort of our clerks. We give them a hot dinner, and a good dinner, too. There's nobody there, now. Everybody's dined.'

'Go down there, and ask the waiter, George,' addressing Mr. Pelton, whom he had summoned, 'to give this good lady a cup of tea and a piece of toast, some chicken and all that.' Then pausing a moment, as if propriety and philanthropy are struggling for mastery in his mind:

'No, no, George. Tell Henderson to send the dinner up into my room here; that's better!' The young man leaves the room. Then Mr. Tawman enters the office again and consults the telegraph operator.

'Send this message at once, Mr. Lindlay, if you please.' He writes something and the operator clicks it off at once. It's a long message—a very long message indeed. But the President's message itself is not so important, so interesting to those whom it concerns.

Then, by the time the message is sent the dinner is ready in Mr. Tawman's private office, where Mrs. Selter partakes of it, but does not think proper to waken the weary child that she may eat also.

Then Mr. Tawman says: 'Now, you had better go. I'll see to the child; I'll bring the little girl up with me to-night.'

'No, no!' exclaims the mother; 'I must have my Ellie with me always, sir. You are so very good! And there is no news of the Good Luck?'

'Not a word, I'm sorry to say.'

'It can't be possible. The brig must come in to-day.'

'I'm sure I hope so, with all my heart and soul, Mrs. Selter.'

'I know you do,' she responds, with a sigh.

'Now go. I'm sorry you have to waken the child, but I suppose you cannot help it.'

'Come, Ellie,' says the mother, touching her lightly on the shoulder.

The child, with a start, awakes and cries—'Is it my papa? Dear, dear papa!'

Then seeing her disappointment, she bursts into tears.

'Don't cry, dear, don't cry. The brig will come in. Don't cry.' The good old man speaks soothingly to the sobbing child; and the mother, catching her hand, walks slowly and sadly away, followed by Mr. Tawman, who lifts the little girl down the stairs, and helps both her and her mother into a car.

(Concluded in our next.)

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