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UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.

CHAP. XXV.

The Little Evangelist—Maternal "Exertions"—Topsy at her Old Games—A wicked Heart—Topsy's Loves—A young Christian.

It was Sunday afternoon. St Clare was stretched on a bamboo lounge in the verandah, solacing himself with a cigar. Marie lay reclined on a sofa, opposite the window opening on the verandah, closely secluded, under an awning of transparent gauze, from the outrages of the mosquitos, and languidly holding in her hand an elegantly bound prayer-book. She was holding it because it was Sunday, and she imagined she had been reading it—though, in fact, she had been only taking a succession of short naps, with it open in her hands.

Miss Ophelia, who, after some rummaging, had hunted up a small Methodist meeting within riding distance; had gone out, with Tom, as driver, to attend it, and Eva had accompanied them.

"I say, Augustine," said Marie, after dozing a while, "I must send to the city after my old Doctor Posey; I'm sure I've got the complaint of the heart."

"Well; why need you send for him? This doctor that attends Eva seems skilful."

"I would not trust him in a critical case," said Marie; "and I think I may say mine is becoming so! I've been thinking of it these two or three nights past; I have such distressing pains, and such strange feelings."

"O Marie, you are blue; I don't believe it's heart-complaint."

"I dare say *you* don't," said Marie; "I was prepared to expect *that*. You can be alarmed enough if Eva coughs or has the least thing the matter with her, but you never think of me."

"If it's particularly agreeable to you to have heart-disease, why, I'll try and maintain you have it," said St. Clare; "I didn't know it was."

"Well, I only hope you won't be sorry for this when it's too late!" said Marie; "but, believe it or not, my distress about Eva, and the exertions I have made with that dear child, have developed what I have long suspected."

What the *exertions* were which Marie referred to it would have been difficult to state. St. Clare quietly made this commentary to himself, and went on smoking, like a heard-hearted wretch of a man as he was, till a carriage drove up before the verandah, and Eva and Miss Ophelia alighted.

Miss Ophelia marched straight to her own chamber, to put away her bonnet and shawl, as was always her manner, before she spoke a word on any subject; while Eva came at St. Clare's call, and was sitting on his knee, giving him an account of the services they had heard.

They soon heard loud exclamations from Miss Ophelia's room (which, like the one in which they were sitting, opened on to the verandah), and violent reproof addressed to somebody.

"What new witchcraft has Tops been brewing?" asked St. Clare. "That commotion is of her raising, I'll be bound!"

And, in a moment after, Miss Ophelia in high indignation, came dragging the culprit along.

"Come out here, now!" she said. "I *will* tell your master."

"What's the case now?" asked Augustine.

"The case is, that I cannot be plagued with this child any longer! It's past all bearing, flesh and blood cannot endure it! Here, I locked her up, and gave her a hymn to study; and what does she do, but spy out where I put my key, and has gone to my bureau, and got a bonnet trimming, and cut it all to pieces to make dolls' jackets! I never saw anything like it in my life."

"I told you, cousin," said Marie, "that you'd find out that these creatures can't be brought up without severity. If I had *my* way, now," she said, looking reproachfully at St. Clare, "I'd send that child out, and have her thoroughly whipped; I'd have her whipped till she couldn't stand!"

"I don't doubt it," said St. Clare. "Tell me of the lovely rule of woman! I never saw above a dozen women that wouldn't half kill a horse, or a servant, either, if they had their own way with them, let alone a man."

"There is no use in this shilly-shally way of yours, St. Clare!" raid Marie. "Cousin is a woman of sense, and she sees it now as plain as I do."

Miss Ophelia had just the capability of indignation that belongs to the thorough-paced housekeeper, and this had been pretty actively roused by the artifice and wastefulness of the child; in fact, many of my lady readers must own that they should have felt just so in her circumstances; but Marie's words went beyond her, and she felt less heat.

"I wouldn't have the child treated so for the world," she said; "but I am sure, Augustine, I don't know what to do. I've taught and taught, I've talked till I'm tired, I've whipped her, I've punished her in every way I can think of; and still she's just what she was at first."

"Come here, Tops, you monkey; said St. Clare, calling the child up to him.

Topsy came up; her round, hard eyes glittering and blinking with a mixture of apprehensiveness and their usual odd drollery.

"What makes you behave so?" said St. Clare, who could not help being amused with the child's expression.

"Spects it's my wicked heart," said Topsy, demurely; "Miss Feely says so."

"Don't you see how much Miss Ophelia has done for you? She says she has done everything she can think off."

"Lor, yes, mas'r! old missus used to say so, too. She whipped me a heap harder, and used to pull my har, and knock my head agin the door; but it didn't do me no good! I spects if they's to pull every spear o' har out o' my head, it wouldn't do no good neither—I's so wicked! Laws! I's nothin' but a nigger, no ways!"

"Well, I shall have to give her up," said Miss Ophelia; "I can't have that trouble any longer."

"Well, I'd just like to ask one question," said St. Clare.

"What is it?"

"Why, if your Gospel is not strong enough to save one heathen child, that you can have at home here, all to yourself, what's the use of sending one or two poor missionaries off with it among thousands of just such? I suppose this child is about a fair sample of what thousands of thousands of your heathen are."

Miss Ophelia did not make an immediate answer; and Eva, who had stood a silent spectator of the scene thus far, made a silent sign to Topsy to follow her. There was a little glass-room at the corner of the verandah, which St. Clare used as a sort of reading-room; and Eva and Topsy disappeared into this place.

"What's Eva going about now?" said St. Clare; "I mean to see."

And, advancing on tiptoe, he lifted up a curtain that covered the glass-door, and looked in. In a moment, laying his finger on his lips, he made a silent gesture to Miss Ophelia to come and look. There sat the two children on the floor, with their side faces towards them—Topsy with her usual air of careless drollery and unconcern; but opposite to her, Eva, her whole face fervent with feeling, and tears, in her large eyes.

"What does make you so bad, Topsy? Why won't you try and be good? Don't you love *anybody*, Topsy?"

"Dunno nothin' bout love: I loves candy and sich, that's all," said Topsy.

"But you love your father and mother?"

"Never had none, ye know. I telled ye that, Miss Eva."

"Oh, I know," said Eva sadly; "but hadn't you any brother or sister, or aunt, or"——

"No, none on 'em—never had nothing nor nobody."

"But Topsy, if you'd only try to be good, you might"——

"Couldn't never be nothin' but a nigger, if I was ever so good," said Topsy. "If I could be skinned, and come white, I'd try then."

"But people can love you, if you are black, Topsy. Miss Ophelia would love you if you were good."

Topsy gave the short, blunt laugh, that was her common mode of expressing incredulity.

"Don't you think so?" said Eva.

"No; she can't bar me, 'cause I'm a nigger; she'd as soon have a toad touch her. There can't nobody love niggers, and niggers can't do nothin'. *I* don't care," said Topsy, beginning to whistle.

"O Topsy, poor child, *I* love you!" said Eva, with a sudden burst of feeling, and laying her little, thin, white hand on topsy's shoulder; "I love you, because you haven't had any father, or mother, or friends—because you've been a poor, abused child! I love you and I want you to be good. I am very unwell, Topsy, and I think I shan't live a great while, and it really grieves me to have you be so naughty. I wish you would try to be good, for my sake; it's only a little while I shall be with you.

The round, keen eyes of the black child were overcast with tears; large, bright drops rolled heavily down, one by one, and fell on the little white hand. Yes, in that moment a ray of real belief, a ray of heavenly love, had penetrated the darkness of her heathen soul! She laid her head down between her knees, and wept and sobbed; while the beautiful child, bending over her, looked like the picture of some bright angel stooping to reclaim a sinner.

"Poor Topsy!" said Eva, "don't you know that Jesus loves all alike? He is just as willing to love you as me. He will help you to be good, and you can go to heaven at last, and be an angel for ever, just as much as if you were white. Only think of it, Topsy, *you* can be one of these spirits bright, Uncle Tom sings about."

"O dear Miss Eva! dear Miss Eva!" said the child, "I will try! I will try! I never did care nothin' about it before."

St. Clare at this instant dropped the curtain. "It puts me in mind of mother," he said to Miss Ophelia. "It's true what she told me: if we want to give sight to the blind, we must be willing to do as Christ did—call them to us, and *put our hands on them*."

"I've always had a prejudice against negroes," said Miss Ophelia; "and it's a fact, I never could bear to have that child touch me; but I didn't think she knew it."

"Trust any child to find that out," said St. Clare; "there's no keeping it from them. But I believe that all the trying in the world to benefit a child, and all the substantial favours you can do them, will never excite one emotion of gratitude while that feeling of repugnance remains in the heart; it's a queer kind of fact, but so it is."

"I don't know how I can help it," said Miss Ophelia; they *are* disagreeable to me—this child in particular. How can I help feeling so?"

"Eva does, it seems."

"Well, she's so loving! After all, though, she's no more than Christ-like," said Miss Ophelia; "I wish I were like her. She might teach me a lesson."

"It wouldn't be the first time a little child had been used to instruct an old disciple, if it *were* so," said St. Clare.

Running into debt often tempts people to tell falsehoods. This made a great wit say, "Lying rides on debt's back." When you have contracted a debt you may think little of paymant, but creditors have better memories than debtors: being a superstitious sect, they are great observers of days and dates.

COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

House of Assembly, March 1853.

DEBATE ON THE SALARIES BILL.

[The Debates on this Bill—the several questions arising out of which occupied so much of the time and attention of the Assembly—have already extended to so great a length, that the Reporter, in order to secure publication of the whole, has been obliged to give the conclusion in a much condensed or summary form.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SALARY.

House in Committee on Mr. Clark's Salaries Bill—Mr. Fraser in the Chair.

Hon. the Speaker. When, in 18—, an Act was passed to establish a Salary for the Colonial Secretary and Registrar and Clerk of the Executive Council, to be in lieu of all official fees, it was urged, in recommendation of the measure, that it would be the means of effecting a considerable saving to the country; but, he thought, it might, with more propriety, have been spoken of as a Bill to benefit the gentleman holding the offices to which it was applicable; and, in his opinion, should the Committee adhere to the Resolution, fixing the Attorney General's Salary at £400, to which they had agreed when they last sat upon this Bill, they would, in that particular, be legislating rather for the benefit of the Attorney General, than for the good of the Country. If, taking the gross amount of the Attorney General's fees for the last ten years, the average should appear to be £400, then he might give his vote for its being fixed at £350. The average on that period, he was, however, convinced would be found considerably short of £400; and, therefore, he could not give his voice in favor of more than £300. The object of the Bill should be the effecting of such a saving to the public, as could be made consistently with a just consideration of the remuneration due to the Attorney General for his public services: unless that were the object of the Bill it ought not to be entertained. When he said he would agree to the fixing of that officer's Salary at £300, he did not mean that his being paid that Salary should interfere with his prosecution of private professional business, otherwise than by his being bound, on account of it, to give the public business, at all times, the preference in his office. In fact, he thought it would be quite absurd, under the Responsible System, to interfere with his (the Attorney General's) private business beyond the restraint imposed by that requirement; and he, therefore, was of opinion that, whether he chose to devote himself to the transaction of business as a money-lender, or to the management of the affairs of an Insurance Office, provided his doing so was not allowed to interfere with the proper discharge of his public duties as Attorney General, it was not properly any concern either of the Legislature or of the Government. The hon. the Speaker concluded by saying that the fees of the Attorney General and the Solicitor were both greatly increased by the number of petty criminal cases brought into the Supreme Court, but he hoped that the time was not far distant when such cases would be disposed of in a summary way before a Bench of Magistrates. He would not vote for either of the Salaries proposed, unless it could be shewn that the average amount of the fees of the Attorney General and the Solicitor, for the last ten years, was over £500.

Hon. Mr. Lord. They ought to be satisfied that what they contemplated carrying into effect would benefit the country; or they ought not to proceed with it. It might work the other way. They should not, he thought, fix the Salaries on an average for a less period than five years. £100 a year was certainly much beyond the average of the fees of the Solicitor.

Mr. Yeo. He was of the same opinion as the Hon. Mr. Lord. As respected the Solicitor General, his charges were so moderate, that there was certainly no necessity for interfering with them.

Hon. Mr. Lord. The hon. member who brought in the Bill ought to have been prepared with full and correct statements of the fees, for some years back, of the public officers whose emoluments the Bill was intended to affect. He (Hon. Mr. L.) was not of opinion that the best way to insure punctuality and expedition, on the part of a public officer, was to give him a fixed Salary: it was more likely, on the contrary, he thought, often to occasion delay and postponement. For his own part, he was so little in love with the measure, that the disposal of it which would best please him, would be its being handed over to the hon. member (Mr. Clark) who had introduced it to put it into his pocket and do what he liked with it.

Hon. Mr. Thornton. The object of the House in entertaining the Bill was economy, he thought; but to fix the Attorney General's Salary at £400 would be the very reverse of economy. The average by which the amount of the Salary ought to be determined should not be taken on the extravagant charges made by the present Attorney General: it ought to be determined by a consideration, not of what he had received, but of what he ought to have received. £400 a year to the Attorney General, whilst, in virtue of that appointment, holding other offices from which he derived a considerable amount of fees, would certainly be too much. The hon. the Speaker would he believed, agree to £350, and he (Hon Mr. T.) thought it would be best to reconsider the vote of the Committee for £400.

Hon. the Speaker stated that the fees of the Attorney General for the years 1849, 1850, and 1851, amounted to £470, the average being £158. That average, he said, would not justify a salary of £400 a year.

Hon. Mr. Whelan stated that the average on the last four years was £439.

Hon. Mr. Pope. If the Attorney General were allowed a Salary of £400 for all public services to be performed by him, he would be much better paid than any other officer of the Government. His services as Attorney General scarcely engaged him for more than one month out of the twelve. If his Salary should be fixed at £400 a year, it ought to be for all the public services required of him in his official capacities.

Mr. Mooney. The average of the last six years would, he thought, afford a proper guidance. It was proclaimed through the papers, he saw, that they were going to gibbet the Attorney General: that proclamation had not, however, been authorised by any proceedings on the part of that House; and therefore it would go only for what it was worth. The House had certainly been looking very closely (as it was their duty to do) into certain doings of the Attorney General; and, in the course of their investigations thereof. he had it could not be denied received a little rough usage: he(Mr. Mooney) himself had given him a prod. but he had done so only because he thought he deserved it. There had not been, however, any intention to treat him unfairly; and with respect to the question of a fixed Salary to be allowed him, the Committe had shown the greatest willingness to deal fairly by him. He himself (Mr. M.) had moved that his Salary be £350 a year; and he was persuaded that, if it were fixed at that amount, he would be very liberally dealt with. If he (the Attorney General) did not think it enough, he would not be compelled to accept it; he might resign. But, if it were fixed at that amount, the allowance would be an ample one; and if he accepted it, it would be the fault of the Government if he failed in the proper discharge of the duties for the performance of which it was to be paid to him. The Hon. Mr. Lord seemed to be afraid that the establishing of a Salary would render him negligent of his duties: but he (Mr. Mooney) would beg leave to tell that hon. gentleman, that it was the duty of the Government, of which he was a member, to take care that the Attorney General gave due attention and diligence to the discharge of his official duties; and if they found that he did not, it would be their duty to dismiss him.

It was then agreed to reconsider the salary of the Attorney General; and the Committee entered upon the reconsideration of the question, accordingly. The doing so led to the repetition of many remarks which had been previously made, as well as to the reproduction of the statements of accounts and calculations on which the Committee had previously relied for a proper determination of the question. In what is subjoined with reference to this question, the Reporter has endeavouted to state, in the fewest words possible, every new fact and argument elicited by the renewed discussion of it.

Mr. Montgomery stated that the Attorney Generals' fees, in his capacity of Advocate General in the Admiralty Court, last year were £130. If all fees received by him in his official capacities were not to be paid into the Treasury, a Salary of £350 a year would, he thought, be quite enough.

Mr. Longworth. The fees received by Mr. Young, in his several offices, amounted to £1000 a year. If his Salary was to be in lieu of all fees paid to him by the Government, he would go for £350.

Hon. Mr. Pope. If he were allowed £400 a year, it would be a very sufficient salary for all services which he would have to render to the Government.

Hon. Mr. Thornton. He would go for £350 as a salary for all the public services to be performed, by the Attorney General, in that capacity alone; or for £400 for his public services in all his public capacities.

Hon. Mr. Pope. He had proposed £400 to be in lieu of all his fees and for all services rendered by him to the Government or the country, both as Attorney General, and as Advocate General in the Admiralty Court.

Mr. Yeo. £400 ought to be considered a very good salary for those services. The Colonial Secretary and the Treasurer had each a great deal more to do for £400 a year.

Mr. Davies. If they agreed to a salary at all, it ought to be in lieu of all fees; and he would be placed above suspicion. £400 would be a good salary—it would be quite sufficient.

Hon. Mr. Coles. He disapproved of the proposition for giving a salary in lieu of all fees received by the Attorney General, in his several public capacities: the adoption of it would occasion much uncertainity concerning the amount which ought to be paid into the Treasury.

Hon. Mr. Palmer. If the motion was, as the Chairman stated it to be, to allow a salary instead of all Fees to which the Attorney General would be entitled in virtue of his official appointments; and if he were to collect all such fees, not payable to him by the Government, and pay them into the Treasury; a salary of £400 a year would be little enough; and he would vote for it. But, if in addition to his salary, he were to be allowed the fees, to which, as Advocate General, he would be entitled in the Admiralty Court, as well as those accruing to him for enforcing the payment of land-assessment arrears, it would be worthy of consideration whether £400 would not be too large a salary.

Mr. Wightman then submitted a Resolution, to the effect—that the sum of £150, (in addition to his present salary) per annum, be allowed to the Attorney General, in lieu of all his fees of office, which might, otherwise, become due and payable to him, by the Government, or the public.

Mr. Clark. He could not see why any opposition should be made, by the Government, to such a proposition. They had had to discharge a duty of much delicacy and trouble in examining, and in objecting to items of the Attorney General's accounts; and the establishing of a Salary, in lieu of fees, for the public services of that officer, would effectually relieve them from so disagreeable a duty.

Hon. Mr. Lord. He objected to it only because he could not see that any saving to the public would be effected by it. He would move that the Speaker take the Chair, and that the Committee rise without reporting.

Mr. Montgomery. If the Hon. gentleman could not see that the sum named would effect a saving to the country, why could he not move a smaller one?

Hon. Mr. Warburton. He thought that the object of the Committee was to allow a salary in lieu of all fees which, in virtue of his office, the Attorney General could demand for his public services, from the Government, or the Bill would not so far have had his support.

Hon. Mr. Lord. If I understand the Resolution aright, it is to the effect that the proposed salary shall be in lieu of all fees, of office, payable to the Attorney General by the Government or the public, for his public services, including, of course, his fees for the recovery of land-assesment arrears.

Hon. Mr. Palmer. The reason assigned by the Government for their moving that the Speaker take the Chair, and that the Committee rise without reporting, is, that the proposed commutation of fees for a salary will effect no saving to the country. The evidence of facts was, however, most obviously opposed to their conclusion. The fees of office of the Attorney General for the last twelve months—all due to him as Attorney General—and in virtue of his office, were above £750, and we propose to allow him a fixed salary of £400, in lieu of all such fees: at this rate, there would clearly be a saving of £350 a year, as the surplus of all such fees over £400, would have to be paid by him into the Treasury.

Hon. Mr. Coles. On the score of economy, he would be quite willing to allow the Attorney General a salary of £300 per annum, in lieu of all fees, to which he might otherwise, become entitled from the Government, allowing him as, before, to put into his own pocket all other fees of office to which he migt be entitled, such as his fees under the Land-Assesment Act: but he was decidedly opposed to the proposition for allowing him a salary in lieu of all his fees of office, however they might be derivable: a dependance, for a saving to the public, to be effected by means of surplus fees to be paid into the Treasury, would be nothing better than leaning upon a rotten stick.

Hon. Mr. Pope. A great change had surely taken place in the sentiments of the Hon. gentleman since the time of the House's last sitting in Committee on the question; for it was certainly his opinion then that the salary should be in lieu of all fees payable to the Attorney General, in all cases in which the Government should be directly concerned, either as Plaintiff or Defendant.

Hon. Mr. Coles. He had never contemplated the Attorney General's being called upon to pay any fees into the Treasury. He wished him to be authorised to proceed against lands for the recovery of land-assesment arrears, and to get his fees from the proprietors, if he could. If proprietors would become defaulters, with respect to the payment of land-tax, he cared not how heavily they were punished by the payment of fees.

Hon. Mr. Pope. He would propose that the Resolution be so amended as to express clearly that the Salary was to be for all services to be performed for the Government, by the Attorney General, and to be in lieu of all fees which he might, otherwise, be entitled to for the performance of such services.

Mr. Montgomery. The Resolution so amended would be what he meant to support.

Mr. Macniell. The discussion had occupied much time, and had brought to light some practices, of which due regard to the public interests required a speedy reformation; but it had not convinced him that such reformation was at hand. It had certainly raised a great wind, and many of the blasts occasioned by it had been biting and severe enough; but he could not perceive that they were likely to sweep off one farthing from the Attorney General's fees, or remove the smallest particle from the burthens of the people. It had been said of Mr. Young, that he was the only *liberal* lawyer in the Colony; and that, in one sense, the observation had been truly made, he (Mr. Macniell) would admit: his scale of legal charges was certainly a *very liberal one*; but, unfortunately, *the liberality* was on the wrong side—it was for his own benefit, and not that of the people.

Hon. Mr. Coles. He would move that the Salary, in addition to that already fixed by Statute, be £150, for all miscellaneous services, rendered to the Government by the Attorney General, and in lieu of all fees to which he would otherwise be entitled for those services. If it were to be provided that the Attorney General should pay any fees into the Treasury, the provision would be productive of very little besides cavilling about the exact nature and amount of such fees, and as to whether he could legally demand them or not. To give him £150, in lieu of fees, for his miscellaneous services to the Government, will be a positive saving; but to allow him £400, and to require him to pay certain fees into the Treasury, in the expectation of effecting a saying in that way, would, he thought, be a very blind and foolish bargain.

Hon. Mr. Pope. He certainly did not think that much stress could properly be laid upon any provision for the paying back of fees into the Treasury: but he was of opinion that they would make a good bargain, if they could secure all the official services of the Attorney General, to the Government, for £400 a year.

The question was then put on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Coles, as above given, and the same was agreed to;—

Hon. Mr. Coles, Hon. Mr. Lord, Hon. the Speaker, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Clark, Mr. Mooney, Mr. Campion, Mr. Macneill, Mr. Wightman, Mr. Yeo, Hon. Mr. Thornton, Mr. Laird, Mr. Macaulay, Mr. Longworth, and Hon. Mr. Jardine, Hon. Mr. Palmer, and Mr. Haviland,—17, voting in favor of it.

Hon. Mr. Pope, Hon. Mr. Whelan, Hon. Mr. Warburton,—3, voting against it.

Friday, 1st April.

SALARY OF THE CLERK OF THE CROWN AND PROTHONOTARY.

Hon. Mr. Coles. proposed that, for the Clerk of the Crown and Prothonotary, a salary should be established, to be, as in the case of the Attorney General, in lieu of all fees which would, otherwise, be payable to him by the Crown; but in no way interfering with fees payable to him by private parties.

Mr. Clark asked how the Deputies of the Prothonotary were paid.

Hon. Mr. Palmer said the Clerk of the Crown and Prothonotary appointed his own Deputies, and paid them out of the fees to which he was entitled. The Hon. and learned gentleman also explained that the fees to which the Prothontary is entitled all arise out of private