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UNCLE TOM'S CABIN or Life among the Lowly By Harriet Beecher Stowe VOLUME I CHAPTER I In Which the Reader Is Introduced to a Man of Humanity Late in the afternoon of a chilly day in February, two gentlemen were sitting alone over their wine, in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           a well-furnished dining p
                                                                                         ants present, and the gentlemen, with chairs closely approaching, seemed to be discussing some subject with great earnestness. For convenience sake, we have said, hitherto, two gentle ly speaking, to come under the species. He was a short, thick-set man, with coarse, commonplace features, and that swaggering air of pretension which marks a low man who is trying to e st of many colors, a blue neckerchief, bedropped gayly with yellow spots, and arranged with a flaunting tie, quite in keeping with the general air of the man. His hands, large and coarse, w , with a bundle of seals of portentous size, and a great variety of colors, attached to it,--which, in the ardor of conversation, he was in the habit of flourishing a <u>nd jingling</u> with evident Grammar,* and was garnished at convenient intervals with various profane expressions, which not even the desire to be graphic in our account float induce <u>us to transcribe</u>. * English
arlor, in the town of P----, in Kentucky. There were no serv
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           men. One of the parties,
however, when critically examined, did not seem, strict
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            lbow his way upward in
the world. He was much over-dressed, in a gaudy ve
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ere plentifully bedecke
d with rings; and he wore a heavy gold watch-chain
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               satisfaction. His conv
ersation was in free and easy defiance of Murray's
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 Grammar (1795), by I
                                                                                         American grammarian of his day. His companion, Mr. Shelby, had the appearance of a gentleman; and the arrangements of the house, and the general air of the house, and the gener
indley Murray (1745-1826), the most authoritative
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              dicated easy, and even
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                the other, hold ing up
opulent c
                  ircumstances. As we before stated, t
a glass o
                   wine between his eye and the light.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  as niggers
                  ley, helping himself to a glass of bran
said Ha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  then, with
                      have,--money, house, horses,--and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                Haley, wit
                    id flourish of his hand, "but I do. I had a
a cand
                    um, too, for I bought him cheap of a man
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   no mi
                                                                                                   fellow had," rejoined the other. "Why, last fall, I let him go to Cincinnati alone, to do busines
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     s for me, and bring home five
                           "Well, Tom's got the real article, if ever a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  him, 'I
                       st you, because I think you're a Christian--I know you wouldn't cheat.' Tom comes back, sure enough; I knew he would. Some low fellows, they say, said to him--
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          n't you make tracks for Canada?' 'A
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           Tom,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          why do
                                                nd I couldn't,'--they told me about it. I am sorry to part with Tom, I must say. You ought to let him cover the whole balance of the got just as much conscience as any man in business can afford to keep,--just a little, you know, to swear by, as 't were, 's a lettle too hard on a fellow--a leetle too hard." The trader sighed contemplatively, and pour
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         you would
                        er trusted me, a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          : and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                , Hale y, if y ou had any consc
                        ce." "Well, I've
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      der, jocular
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             nd, then, I'm ready to do anything
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        the tra
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ly; "a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          some m ore brandy."
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       and poure
                      n reason to 'blig
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 Well, then, Ha ley, how will you t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          d out
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              are; to tell t he truth, it's only har
                        rade?" said M
                                                        r. Shelby, after an uneasy interval of silence. "Well, haven't you a boy or gal that you could throw in with Tom?" '
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         Hum!--
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        none that I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               could
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               well sp
                                                         y makes me willing to sell at all. I don't like parting with any of m y hands, that's a fact." Here the door open ed, an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             d a sm
                          d necessit
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            all qua
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             droon boy, between four and five years of age, enter
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ng in g
                                                                                        mething in his appearance remarkably bea
                                                                                                                                                              utiful and engaging. His black hair, fine as flo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  curls about his round, dimple d face, wh il
                                                          m. There was so
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ss silk, hu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   lossy
                                                                                           full of fire and softness, looked out from
                                                                                                                                                                beneath the rich, long lashes, as he
                         e a pair of I
                                                          arge dark eyes,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               d curio
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              usly in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ap artment. A gay robe o f scarle t and yellow p
                                                                                            eatly fitted, se
                                                                                                                     t off to advantage the
                                                         fully made and n
                                                                                                                                                                 dark and rich style of his beauty
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ance, blen
                            laid, care
                                                                                                                                                                                                                            and a certa
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    assur
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ded with ba shfulness, sh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 r. Shelb y, whistlin g, and snapping a bu nch of r aisins towards
                                                         hat he had been
                                                                                              not unused
                                                                                                                        to being petted and
                                                                                                                                                                  noticed by his master. "Hullo a, Jim
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               Crow!"
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 said M
                                                                                                                                                                   , with all his little strength,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     r laug hed. "Come here, Jim Crow," said he. The child c
                                                           pick that up,
                                                                                              now!" The
                                                                                                                          child scampered
                                                                                                                                                                                                            after the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  rize, wh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ile his
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      maste
                                                                                                master p
                                                                                                                           atted the curly
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ow, Jim, s how t his gentlema n how you can danc e and sing.
                                                             up, and the
                                                                                                                                                                     head, and chucked him
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          in a ric h, clear v oice, ac companying his singing with many
                                                              oy comme
                                                                                                nced on
                                                                                                                             e of those w
                                                                                                                                                                     ild, grotesque songs c
                                                                                                                                                                                                             ommon a mong the n
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       egroes,
                              e b
                                                                                                                                                                      feet, and who le b ody, all
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      to the music. "Bravo!" said Haley, throw ing him a quarter of an orange. "Now,
                                                              mic evolu
                                                                                                                                 the hands,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   fect time
                               CO
                                                                                                   tions of
                                                                                                                              e old Uncle
                                                                                                                                                                     Cudjoe, whe
                                                                                                                                                                                            n he has the rheumatism," said his master. Instantly the flexible limbs of
                                                                                                                                                                                              h hi s back humped up, and his master's stick in his hand, he hobbled about the room, his chi Idish fac e drawn
                                                                                                   formit
                                                                                                                             v and distor
                                                                                                                                                                   tion, as, wit
                                                                                                                                                                                               itting from right to left, in imitation of an old man. Both gentle men laug hed up roariou sly. "No w, Jim," said his
                                                               into a
                                                                                                    dol
                                                                                                                               eful puck
                                                                                                                                                                    er, and sp
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                bbins leads the psalm." The boy drew hi s chub by f ace dow n to a for midable length, an
                                                                                                                                                                     w us ho
                                                                                                                                                                                                   ing a psalm tune through his nose, with imperturbable gravi ty. "Hurrah! b rav o! w hat a you ng 'un!" s aid Hale
                                                                                                      d co
                                                                                                                                mmen
                                                                                                                                                                       ced ton
                                                                                                                                                                                                     c ase, I'll promise. Tell you what," said he, suddenly clapping his hand on Mr. Shelby's shoulder, "fling in the I'll settle the busine ss--I will. Come, now, if that ain't doing the thing up about the right est!"
                                                                                                                                                                        hap's a
                                                                                                     у;
                                                                                                                                                                                                       ome nt, the door was pushed gently o pen, a nd a young quadroon woman, ap parently about twe e, en tered the ro om. T here n eeded only a glance from the child to her, to identify her as it
                                                                                                                                                                         is m
                                                                                                                                                                          y-fiv
                                                                                                                                                                                                   other. There was the same rich ,full,d   ark ey   e, with i ts long lashes; the same ripples of silky black h air. T
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              gave w ay on the cheek to a perce ptible flush, which deepened a s s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ompl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              exion
                                                                                                                                                                                             he sa withe gaze of the strange man fixe dupo in her in bold and undisguised admiration. Her dress was of the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    and s et off
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             to adva ntage
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   h er finely moulded shape; -- a deli cately f
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ossib
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   le fit,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        and a trim foot and ankle w ere items of appearance that did not escape the quick eye of the trader,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     at a gl ance t he points of a f ine fe male article. "Well, Eliza?" said her ma ster, as s sitating ly at him. "I was looking fo r Ha rry, ple ase, sir;" and the boy bounded towa rd her, sh he h ad ga thered in the skir t of his robe. "Well, ta ke him away then," said Mr. Sh elby; an child o n her arm. "By Jupiter, " sa id the t rad er, turning to him in admiration, "there's an a rticle, now! You might m
                                                                                                                                                                                                              to ru
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           n up at a gl
                                                                                                                                                                                             pped a nd loo ked he
                                                                                                                                                                                                    his s poils, which
                                                                                                                                                                             d hastily she withdrew, carry ing the
                                                                                                                                                                                ake your fortune on that ar gal in Orleans, any day. I've seen over a thous and, in my day, paid down for gals not a bit hands omer." " I don't want to make my
                                                                                                                                                                                    ort une on her," said Mr. Shelby, dryly; and, seeking to turn the conver sation, he uncorke d a bottle of fresh w ine, and asked his companion's pinio of it. "Capital, sir,- -first chop!" said the trader; then ture ning, and slapping his hand familiarly on Shelby's shoulder, he added-"Come, how will you trade about the gall?--what shall I say for her-what'll you take?" "Mr. Haley, she is not to be sold," said Shelby.
                                                                                                                                                                            "M y wif e would not part with her for her weight in gol d." "Ay, ay! wom en a lways say s uch things, cause they ha'nt no so rt of c alculation. Just show 'em
                                                                           "My wif e would not part with her for her weight how many watch es, feathers, and trinkets, one 's weight in you and rean no, "said Shelby, decidedly. "Well, you'll let me have the boy, though," said the trader; "you mus town I've come do wn p retty h and some boy to ropen door, wait, and tend. They fetch a good sum, and this little devil is such a comical, musical concern, he's just the article! "I would rather not sell him, streamin' time es. They are might you have the boy, though," said the trader; "you mus town I've come do wn p retty h and some boy to ropen door, wait, and tend. They fetch a good sum, and this little devil is such a comical, musical concern, he's just the article! "I would rather not sell him, streamin' time es. They are might yon pleasant; but, as I m anages business, I al'ays hates these yer screechin, screamin' time es. They are might yon, between the thing's done quietly,—all over before she comes home. Your wife might get her some ear-rings, or a new gown, or some esuch truck, to make up with ther." "I that this kind of trade is har dening to the feelings; but I never foun hings up the way some fellers manage the business. I've seen 'em as would pull a woman's c hild out of her arms, and set thim up to sell, and she screechin' the rings or your real high sort, when her blood was up. I tell you, she squeezed up her child in her arms, and talked, and went on real accordance of the condition. Just show that at ters the case, I reckon." "It tell you, that at let res the case, I reckon." "It tell you, that at let res the case, I reckon." "It tell you, that at let res the case, I reckon." "It tell you, the the care; is aid the trader; you mus to wn I've come do wn p retty the nust not on the pot the pot one on this let the care; is aid the trader; you mus to wn I've come do wn p retty the nust not on the pot to her type one on this let. They are the boy, though; said the et rader; you mus to wn I town I that alt ers the case, I reckon." "It tell you, the the care; is aid the trader; you mu
                                                                   d it so. Fact is, I never could do t
                                                                                           as trading for her didn't want her baby; and she was on e of your real high sort, when her blood was up. I tell you, she squeezed up her child in her arms, a nd talked, and went on r eal aw
                                                                                                                                                                                            up, she jest went ravin' mad, and died in a week. Clear waste, sir, of a thousand dollars , just for want of m anagement,--there's where 't is. ack in heack in heach is chair, and folded his arm, with an air of virtuous decision, a pparently considering himself a second Wilberf out afresh, with becoming description of the force of truth to say a few welling an orange, Haley broke out afresh, with becoming descriptions of the force of truth to say a few welling an orange, Haley broke out afresh, with becoming descriptions of the force of truth to say a few welling an orange, Haley broke out afresh and the force of truth to say a few welling an orange, Haley broke out afresh and the force of truth to say a few welling and the force of truth to say a few well as the force of truth to say a few welling and the force of truth to say a few welling and the force of truth to say a few well as the force of truth to say a few welling and the force of truth to say a few welling and the force of truth to say a few well as the force of truth to say a few welling and the force of truth to say a few welling and the force of truth to say a few well as the force of truth to say a few welling and the force of truth to say a few welling and the force of truth to say a few well as the force of truth to say a few welling and the force of truth to say a few welling and the force of truth to say a few well as the force of truth to say a few welling and the force of truth to say a few welling and the force of truth to say a few well as the force of truth to say a few welling and the force of truth to say a few welling and the force of truth to say a few well as the force of truth to say a few welling and the few wellings and the few wellings are truth to say a few wellings and the few wellings are truth to say a few wellings and the few wellings are truth to say a few wellings and the few wellings are truth to say a few wellings are truth t
                                                                         un cold to think of 't; and when they carried off the child, and lock ed her
                                                                 t to do the humane thing, sir; that's been my experience." And the trader leaned back in h
                                           ays bes to do the humane thing, sir; that's been my experience." And the trader leaned back in h is chair, and folded his arm, with an air of virtu ous decision, a pparently considering himself a second Wilberf orce ject appeared to interest the gentleman deeply; for while Mr. Shelby was though tfully peeling an orange, Haley broke out afr esh, with becoming diffidence, but a s if actually driven by the force of truth to say a few w re. "It don't look well, now, for a feller to be praisin' himself; but I say it jest because it's the truth. I believe I'm reckoned to bring in about the finest droves of niggers that is brou ght in,--at least, I've been told so; if I have once, I reckon I
                                     hundred times,--all in good case,--fat and likely, and I lose as lew as any man in the business. And I lays it all to my management, sir; and humanity, sir, I may say, is the great pillar of my manageme nt." Mr. Shelby did not know what to sa
                               o he said, "Indeed!" "Now, I've been laughed at for my notions, sir, and I've been talked to. They an't pop'lar, and they an't comm
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             on; but I stuck to '
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               em, sir; I've stuck to 'em, and reali
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              zed well on 'em; yes, sir, they have paid thei
                  e, I may say," and the trader laughed at his joke. There was something so piq uant and original in these elucidations of humanity, that Mr. mes out in a variety of stranger forms now-a-days, and there is no end to the odd thing s that humane people will say and do. Mr. Shelby's laugh en
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          Shelby could not help laughing in company. Perhaps you laugh too, dear reader; but you know huma
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             couraged the trader to proceed. "It's strange, now, but I never could beat this into people's heads.
               there was Tom Loker, my old partner, down in Natchez; he was a clever fellow, Tom was, o nly the very devil with niggers,--on principle 't was, you see, fo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 r a better hearted feller never broke bread; 't was his system, sir. I used to talk to Tom. 'Why, To o no sort o' good. Why, I don't see no harm in their cryin',' says I; 'it's natur,' says I, 'and if natur,'
          I used to say, 'when your gals takes on and cry, what's the use o' crackin on' em over the head , and knockin' on 'em round? It's ridiculous,' says I, 'and don't dean't blow off one way, it will another. Be sides, Tom,' s ays I, 'it jest spiles your gals; they get sickly, and down in the mo 'em broke in. Now,' says I, 'why can't you kinder coax 'em up, and speak 'em fair? Depend on it, Tom, a little humanity, thrown in along, goes a heap f
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        uth; and sometimes they gets ugly,--particular yallow gals do,--and it's the devil and all gett urther than all your jawin' and crackin'; and it pays better,' says I, 'depend on 't.' But Tom
in' on 'em broke in. Now,' says I, 'why can't you kinder coax 'em up, and speak 'em fair? Depend on it, Tom, a little humanity, thrown in along, goes a heap f couldn't get the hang on 't; and he spiled so many for me, that I had to break off with him, though he was a good-hearted fellow, and as fair a business hand as is
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                goin'." "And do you find your ways of managing do the business better than Tom's?" s out of the way--out of sight, out of mind, you know,--and when it's clean done, and
said Mr. Shelby. "W hy, yes, sir, I may say so. You see, when I any ways can, I takes a leetle care ab out the onpleasant parts, like selling young uns and that,--get the gal
can't be helped, the y naturally g ets used to it. 'Tan't, you know, as if it was white folks, that's brought up in the way of 'spectin' to keep their children and wives, and all that. kind; so all these the ings comes easier." "I'm afraid mine are not properly brought up, then," said Mr. She lby. "S'pose not; you Kentucky folks spile your niggers. You mean w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Niggers, you know, that's fetched up properly, ha'n't no kind of 'spectations of no ell by 'em, but 'tan't no real kindness, arter all. Now, a nigger, you see, what's go
t to be hacked and tu mbled round the world, and sold to Tom, and Dick, and the Lord knows who, 'tan't no kindness to be givin' on him notions and expectations, and bringin' o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             n him up too well, for the rough and tumble comes all the harder on him arter.
Now, I venture to say, your niggers would be quite chop-fallen in a place where some of your plantation niggers would be singing and who oping like all possessed. Every man eat niggers just about a swell as it's ever worth while to treat 'em." "It's a happy thing to be satisfied," sai d Mr. Shelby, with a slight shrug, and some perceptible feelings of a dis eir nuts for a season," what do you say?" "I'll think the matter over, and talk with my wife," said Mr. Shelby, with a slight shrug, and some perceptible feelings of a dis you. "Meantime, Haley, if you want the matter carried on in the quiet way young my fellows, if they know it, I'll promise you." "O' certainly, by all I want to know, as so on as possible, what I may depend on," said he, rising and put ting on his overcoat. "Well, call up this evening, between able to kick the fell ow down the esteps," said he to himself, as he saw the door fairly closed, "with his impudent assurance; b said to me that I shou Id sell Tom down south to one of the ose ras cally trader s, I should have said, 'Is thy servant a dog, that he should do this thing?' And now it must come fuss with wife about that; and, for the at matter, about Tom, too. So much for bein g in de bt,-heighe! The fellow sees his advantage, and pressure that are called for the same and pressure that are called for the same and pressure that are called for
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                , you know, Mr. Shelby, naturally thinks well of his own ways; and I think I tr
agreeable nature. "Well," said Haley, after they had both silently picked th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ou speak of, you'd best not let your business in this neighborhood be kn
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     means, mum! of course. But I'll tell you. I'm in a devil of a hurry, and shall
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       hall have my answer," said Mr. Shelby, and the trader bowed himself o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ut he knows how much he has me at advantage. If anybody had ever
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           e, for aught I see. And Eliza's child, too! I know that I shall have som
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             e mildest form of the system of slavery is to be seen in the State of
Kentucky. The general prevalence of agric ultural purs uits of a qui et and grad ual nature, not requiring those periodic seasons of hurry and pressure that are called for negro a more healthfue land reasonable one; while the master, content with a more graduals tyle of acquisition, has not those temptations to hardheartedness which alwa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               in the business of more southern districts, makes the task of the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ys overcome frail human nature when the prospect of sudden and
 rapid gain is weighed i n the b alance, with n o heavi er co unterpo ise t han the int erest s of th e helpless and unprotected. Whoever visits some estates there, and witness
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               es the good-humored indulgence of some masters and mistresse
s, and the affectionate loy alty of some sl aves, might b e tem pted to dream the o ft-fa bled poetic legend of a patriarchal institution, and all that; but over and above the scen
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               e there broods a portentous shadow--the shadow of law. So long
as the law considers all the see human beings, with beating he earts and living affections, only a soo many things belonging to a master, so long as the failure, or misfortum and day to exchange a life of kind protection and in dulge not not one of hop eless misery and toil, so long it is impossible to make anything beautiful or desirable in the average kind of man, good-nature d and kindly, and dispose d to easy in dulgence of those around him, and there had never been a lack of anything which might contribute however, speculated largely and quite loo sely; had involved himself deeply, and his notes to a large amount had come into the hands of halley; and this somebody.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ne, or imprudence, or death of the kindest owner, may cause the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 e best regulated administration of slavery. Mr. Shelby was a fair
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  te to the physical comfort of the negroes on his estate. He had,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  of information is the key to the preceding conversation. Now, it
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  She would gladly have stopped at the door to listen, as she ca
me out; but her mistress just then calling, she was obliged to hast en a way. S till she t hough t she heard the trader make an offer for her boy;--could she be mista ined him so tight that the little fellow looked up i nto her face in asto nish ment. "El iza, g irl, wh at ails you today?" said her mistress, when Eliza had upset the wash
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ken? Her heart swelled and throbbed, and she involuntarily stra
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   -pitcher, knocked down the workstand, and finally was abstract
edly offering her mistress a logning htgown in place of the silk dress she had ordered her to bring from the wardrobe. Eliza started. "O, missis!" she said, raising
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     er eves: then, bursting into tears, she sat down in a chair, an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  eard him." "Well, silly child, suppose there has." "O, missis, do
d began sobbing. "Why, Eliza c hild, w hat ails you ?" said her m istress. "O! missis , m issis, " said Eliza, "there's been a trader talking with master in the parlor! I h
you suppose mas'r would sell 🛮 my Ha rry?" A nd th e poor c reat 🗸 ure thre w he rself i nto 🗸 a ch 🔞 air, an d sobbed convulsively. "Sell him! No, you foolish girl! You know
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  your master never deals with those southern traders, and neve
r means to sell any of his servan ts, as long a s the y behav e we II. Why, you silly c hil d, wh o do y ou think would want to buy your Harry? Do you think all the w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 orld are set on him as you are, you goosie? Come, cheer up, an
d hook my dress. There now, put my b ack hai rup in that p retty braid y ou le arnt the o ther day, a nd don't go listening at doors any more." "Well, but, missis, to be sure, I shouldn't. What do y ou talk so for? I would a s soon have one of my own children sold. But really, Eliza, you are getting altogether too prou you think he must be coming to buy him." Reassured by her mistress' confident tone, Eliza proceeded nimbly and adroitly with her toilet, laughing a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  you never would give your consent--to--to--" "Nonsense, child
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 d of that little fellow. A man can't put his nose into the door, but
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 t her own fears, as she proceeded. Mrs. Shelby was a woman of
high class, both intellectually and morall y. To th at na tural m agna nimity a nd g enero sity of m ind w hich one often marks as characteristic of the women
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 of Kentucky, she added high moral and religious sensibility and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               r, nevertheless reverenced and respected the consistency of her
principle, carried out with great en ergy a nd abil ity in to pract ical r esults. Her h usba nd, who made no professions to any particular religious characte
s, and stood, perhaps, a little in awe of he ropini on. Certain it was that he gave he run limit ed scope in all her benevolent efforts for the comfort, i
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               nstruction, and improvement of her servants, though he never to
ok any decided part in them himself . In fa ct, if n ot e xactly a belie ver in th e do ctrine of the efficie ncy of the extra good works of saints, he reali
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              y seemed somehow or other to fancy that his wife had piety and b
enevolence enough for two--to indul ge a s hadow y ex pectation of getting into heav en t hrou gh he r superabundance of qualities to which he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             made no particular pretension. The heaviest load on his mind, after
his conversation with the trader, lay in the forese en n ecessity of b reaking to h is wifet he a rrang ement contemplated,--meeting the impo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             rtunities and opposition which he knew he should have reason to
encounter. Mrs. Shelby, being entirely ignor ant of her husband's e mbarra ssm ents, an dkn owing only the general kindliness of his te
e had met Eliza's suspicions. In fact, s he dis misse d the matte r fro m her m ind, witho ut a sec ond t hought; and being occupied in pre
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            mper, had been quite sincere in the entire incredulity with which sh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           parations for an evening visit, it passed out of her thoughts entirely
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          er in the south must often have remarked that peculiar air of refineme
CHAPTER II The Mother Eliza had been 🛮 broug ht up 🖰 by h er mist ress, from g 🛮 irlho od, a s a 🏻 pett ed an d indulged favorite. The travell
nt, that softness of voice and manner, w hich s eems lin m any callsest olde a particular gif it to the quiladroon and mulatto wome
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       n. These natural graces in the quadroon are often united with beauty o
f the most dazzling kind, and in almost e very case with a perso nal appearance pre possessing and agre eable. Eliza, such a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       s we have described her, is not a fancy sketch, but taken from rememb
rance, as we saw her, years ago, in Kent ucky. Safe u nder the pro tecti<sup>®</sup>ng care of h<sup>®</sup>er mi stre ss, E liza had reac
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      turity without those temptations which make beauty so fatal an inherita
nce to a slave. She had been married to a brigh t and tale nted yo ung mulatto man, who was as lave on a neighboring
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      estate, and bore the name of George Harris. This young man had been h
ired out by his master to work in a baggin g facto ry, w here his ad roitn ess and inge nuity ca use d him to be considered the first han
g the education and circumstances of the i nvent or, di spla yed qui te as much mech anic al g eniu s as W hitney's cotton-gin.* * A m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   e had invented a machine for the cleaning of the hemp, which, considering
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       d in the place . H
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  e invention of a young colored man in Kentucky. [Mrs. Stowe's note.] He w
                                                                                                                                                                            hitney's cotton-gin.* * A machine of this description was really th
as possessed of a handsome person and p leasin g ma nner's, and was a gener al fav orite in t he f actor y. Ne
                                                                                                                                                                                                   less, as this young man was in the eye of the law no
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 t a man, but a thing, all these superior qualifications were subject to the co
ntrol of a vulgar, narrow-minded, tyrannical mast er. Th is same gen tlem an, hav ing h eard of t he f ame o fG
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                factory, to see what this intelligent chattel had been about. He was received
                                                                                                                                                                                       eorge
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ntion, took a ride over to the
with great enthusiasm by the employer, who cong ratula ted him on poss essing so v alua ble a sla ve. H
                                                                                                                                                                                                            s waite
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                d upon over the factory,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                shown the machinery by George, who, in high spirits, talked so fluently, hel
d himself so erect, looked so handsome and manl y, tha t his maste r beg an to fe el an une asy cons cious
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 riority. What busines
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             had his slave to be marching round the country, inventing machines, and hold
                                                                                                                                                                                        ness
                                                                                                                                                                                                             of infe
ing up his head among gentlemen? He'd soon put a ´stop to it . He'd t ake h im bac k, an d pu t hi m t o ho
d were astounded when he suddenly demande d Geo rge's wages, and anno unced his in tenti on o f tak
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          d step about so smart." Accordingly, the manufacturer and all hands concerneris," remonstrated the manufacturer, "isn't this rather sudden?" "What if it is?
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 gging, and "see if he'
me. "But, Mr. Ha
                                                                                                                                                                                        eing
                                                                                                                                                                                                             and di
                                                                                                                                                                                         ing h
                                                                                                                                                                                                             im ho
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ire any of my hands out, unless I've a mind to." "But, sir, he seems peculiarly ad I'll be bound." "But only think of his inventing this machine," interposed one of the
isn't the man mine?" "We would be willing, sir ,to in creas e th'e rate o f compensati on." "No obje-
                                                                                                                                                                                                              ir. I do
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 n't need to h
apted to this business." "Dare say he may be; n ever wa s mu ch ada pted t
                                                                                                                                                                                          I set
                                                                                                                                                                                                               him a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 bout.
e workmen, rather unluckily. "O yes! a machine f or saving work, is it? He'd invent that, I'll be boun d; let
f 'em. No, he shall tramp!" George had stood like one transfixed, at hearing his doom thus suddenly pronounced by a pow er that
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      one for that, any time. They are all labor-saving machines themselves, every one o
                                                                                                                                                                                                               a nig
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ger al
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     as irresistible. He tolded his arms, tightly pressed in his lips, but a whole volcano o
                                                                                                                                                                                                               he kn
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ew w
f bitter feelings burned in his bosom, and sent stareams of fire through his veins. He breathed short, and his large dark eyes flashed lik
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ; and he might have broken out into some dangerous ebullition, had not the kindly
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                coals
manufacturer touched him on the arm, and said, i 🛮 n a low tone, "Give way, George; go with him for the present. We'll try to help you, yet." The tyr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   bserved the whisper, and conjectured its import, though he could not hear what was
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ant o
said; and he inwardly strengthened himself in his determ
                                                                                             inatio n t o keep the power he possessed over his victim. George was taken home
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  put to the meanest drudgery of the farm. He had been able to repress every disrespe
ctful word; but the flashing eye, the gloomy and tro ubled br ow, wer e part of
                                                                                                                                       a natural language that could not be repressed,--indu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                e signs, which showed too plainly that the man could not become a thing. It was durin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               bitabl
g the happy period of his employment in the factory that Ge orge
                                                                                                                                                                     his wife. During that period,--bein
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ch trusted and favored by his employer, -- he had free liberty to come and go at discret
                                                                                                                                      n and mar ried
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               g mu
on. The marriage was highly approved of by Mrs. She Iby, w ho
                                                                                                                                                                     placency in match-making, felt p
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ed to unite her handsome favorite with one of her own class who seemed in every way
                                                                                                             h a little
                                                                                                                                       womanly
                                                                                                                                                        com
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                leas
suited to her; and so they were married in her mistres s' gre
                                                                                                                                       d her mis
                                                                                                                                                        tress herself adorned the bride's beautifu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               with orange-blossoms, and threw over it the bridal veil, which certainly could scarce I
                                                                                               at p
                                                                                                              arlor, an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               I hair
ave rested on a fairer head; and there was no lack of
                                                                                                               ves, and
                                                                                                                                         cake and wine,--of admiring guests to praise the bride's beauty, and her mistress' in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            dulgence and liberality. For a year or two Eliza saw her husband frequently, and there wa
                                                                                                  glo
s nothing to interrupt their happiness, except the lo
                                                                                                                                                                             e was passionately attached, and whom she mourned with a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            grief so intense as to call for gentle remonstrance from her mistress, who sought, with m
                                                                                                  two
                                                                                                                 infant ch
                                                                                                                                          ildren, to whom sh
aternal anxiety, to direct her naturally passionat
                                                                                                                                                                              religion. After the birth of little Harry, however, she had gradua
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            lly become tranquillized and settled; and every bleeding tie and throbbing nerve, once mo
                                                                                  e feel
                                                                                                  ings
                                                                                                                 within th
                                                                                                                                    e bounds of reason and
re entwined with that little life, seemed to be
                                                                                                                nd and healthful, and Eliza was a hap
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              e time that her husband was ru
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           dely torn from his kind employer, and brought under the iron sway of his legal owner. The
                                                                                   come
                                                                                                                                                                                  py wom an up to th
                                                                                                   sou
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         at of the occasion had passed away, and tried every possible inducement to lead him to re usiness, sir." "I did not presume to interfere with it, sir. I only thought that you might think
manufacturer, true to his word, visited Mr
                                                                                                   ris a
                                                                                                                   week or two after Georg
                                                                                                                                                             e had b
                                                                                                                                                                              een taken
                                                                                                                                                                                                           away, w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           hen, as h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      e hoped, the he
store him to his former employment.
                                                                                     You n
                                                                                                   eedn
                                                                                                                 't trouble yourself to talk
                                                                                                                                                         any long
                                                                                                                                                                                    er," sai
                                                                                                                                                                                                      d he, dog
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                gedly;
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   "I know my own b
t for your interest to let your man t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    nough. I saw your
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          winking and whispering, the day I took him out of the factory; but you don't come it over m
                                                                                                    on t he terms prop
                                                                                                                                      osed." "O,
                                                                                                                                                               I und
                                                                                                                                                                                erstand the
                                                                                                                                                                                                              mat
                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ter well e
                                                                                      o us
                                                                                                                                         d I do what
                                                                                                                                                                                                         --that's i
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 nd so fell George's
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        last hope;--nothing before him but a life of toil and drudgery, rendered more bitter by every
e that way. It's a free country, s
                                                                                                    e man's mine, an
                                                                                                                                                            I please w
                                                                                                                                                                                    ith him.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       orst use you can put a man to is to hang him. No; there is another use that a man can be put
little smarting vexation and i
                                                                                                 ity which tyrannical i
                                                                                                                                         ngenuity
                                                                                                                                                                     could
                                                                                                                                                                                   devise. A
                                                                                                                                                                                                             very
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                humane jurist once said, The w
to that is WORSE! CHAP
                                                                                         TER III The Husb and an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                her visit, and Eliza stood in the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         verandah, rather dejectedly looking after the retreating carriage, when a hand was laid on h
                                                                                                                                            d Fath
                                                                                                                                                               er Mrs. She
                                                                                                                                                                                   lby had
                                                                                                                                                                                                           gone on
er shoulder. She turne
                                                                                          d, and a brigh
                                                                                                                   t smile ligh
                                                                                                                                         ted up her
                                                                                                                                                                      fine
                                                                                                                                                                                    eyes. "Geo
                                                                                                                                                                                                         rge, is
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 it you? How you frightened m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        e! Well; I am so glad you 's come! Missis is gone to spend the afternoon; so come into my lit
                                                                                                                                                                    aying this, she dre
                                                                                                                                              elves." S
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       n the verandah, where she generally sat at her sewing, within call of her mistress. "How glad urls, holding close to the skirts of his mother's dress. "Isn't he beautiful?" said Eliza, lifting
                                                                                                                                                                                                           w him into a neat little apartment opening o
tle room, and we'll
                                                                                                                   all to ours
I am!--why don
                                                                                         't you smile?--and look at Harry--how he grows.
                                                                                                                                                                                                          d shyly regarding his father through his c
                                                                                                                                                                            The boy stoo
                                                                                       Is and kissing him. "I wish he'd never been born!" s aid George, bitte t into tears. "There now, Eliza, it's too bad for me to make you fee I so, po
                                                                                                                                                                                                               rly. "I wish I'd never been born mys
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        elf!" Surprised and frightened, Eliza sat down, leaned her head on her husband's shoulder,
his long cur
                                                                                                                                                                                                         or girl!" said he, fondly; "it's too bad:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       O, how I wish you never had seen me--you might have been happy!" "George! George! how
and burs
                                                                                        you talk so? What dreadful thing has happened, or is going to happen? I'm sure we've been very happy, till lately.'
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        So we have, dear," said George. Then drawing his child on his knee, he gazed intently on h
                                                                                            s glorious dark eyes, and passed his hands through his long curls. "Just like you, Eliza; and you are the h andsom , nor you me!" "O, George, how can you!" "Yes, Eliza, it's all misery, misery, misery! My life is bitt er as w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        est woman I ever saw, and the best one I ever wish to see; but, oh, I wish I'd never seen you
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ormwood; the very life is burning out of me. I'm a poor, miserable, forlorn drudge; I shall on
                                                                                                   ý drag y
" "O, no
                                                                                                                                                 ou down with me, that's all. What's the use of our trying to do a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         trying to know anything, trying to be anything? What's the use of living? I wish I was dead!
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            nything
                                                                                                                                                             w, dear George, that is really wicked! I know how yo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        bout losing your place in the factory, and you have a hard master; but pray be patient, and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            u feel a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        en't I been patient? Did I say a word when he came and took me away, for no earthly reason d him truly every cent of my earnings,--and they all say I worked well." "Well, it is dreadful," "My master! and who made him my master? That's what I think of--what right has he to me
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             er; "hav
                                                                                                  perhaps
                                                                                                                                                                       ething--" "Patient!" said he, interrupting h
                                                                                                                                                                        ace where everybody was kind to me?
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                l'd pai
                                                                                                  . from t
                                                                                                                                                            he pl
                                                                                                                                                         iza; "bu
                                                                                                                                                                         t, after all, he is your master, you
                                                                                                  said E
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                know.
                                                                                                                                                                           as he is. I'm a better man tha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            n he is. I k
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         now more about business than he does; I am a better manager than he is; I can read better
                                                                                                 I'm a m
                                                                                                                                                   an as much
                                                                                        than he can;
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          self, and no thanks to him, -- I've learned it in spite of him; and now what right has he to ma
                                                                                                                                                I can
                                                                                                                                                                           a better hand,--and I've le
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       arned it all my
                                                                                                                                                             write
                                                                                        ke a dray-ho
                                                                                                                                         rse of
                                                                                                                                                             me?
                                                                                                                                                                           --to take me from thin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  n do, a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          nd do better than he can, and put me to work that any horse can do? He tries to do it; he s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           , a.
you tal
ry's!" "
ce he
' o
                                                                                                                                                                          n and humble me
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            me to just the hardest, meanest and dirtiest work, on purpose!" "O, George! George! you
                                                                                         ays he'll bri
                                                                                                                                                            dow
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   he puts
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            m afraid you'll do something dreadful. I don't wonder at your feelings, at all; but oh, do be
                                                                                                                             Why,
                                                                                             frighten me!
                                                                                                                                                           neve
                                                                                                                                                                          r heard
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    k so; l'
                                                                                              careful--do, do--for my
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             been careful, and I have been patient, but it's growing worse and worse; flesh and blood
                                                                                                                                                                           --for Har
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      I have
                                                                                             can't bear it any longer
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              to insult and torment me, he takes. I thought I could do my work well, and keep on quie
                                                                                                                                                                           ery chan
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      can get
                                                                                                                                                           ;--ev
                                                                                            t, and have some time to r
                                                                                                                                                         ead a
                                                                                                                                                                           nd learn
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          out o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        f work
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              hours; but the more he sees I can do, the more he loads on. He says that though I don't
                                                                                           say anything, he sees I've got th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                to bring it out; and one of these days it will come out in a way that he won't like, or I'm
                                                                                                                                                         e devi
                                                                                                                                                                            I in me,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  and he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          means
                                                                                                                 "O dear! what shall we
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   'It was only yesterday," said George, "as I was busy loading stones into a cart, that y
                                                                                           mistaken!"
                                                                                                                                                        do?" s
                                                                                                                                                                            aid Eliza
                                                                                                                                                                                                              , mou
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          rnfully.
                                                                                                                       'r Tom stood there, slashing
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 horse that the creature was frightened. I asked him to stop, as pleasant as I could, --he
                                                                                          oung Mas
                                                                                                                                                                            his whip
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ear the
                                                                                                                                                                                                          so n
                                                                                                                             pt right on. I begged him
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ed on me, and began striking me. I held his hand, and then he screamed and kicked a
                                                                                          just ke
                                                                                                                                                                            again, an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            he turn
                                                                                        nd ran
                                                                                                                                      to his father, and told him that I wa
                                                                                                                                                                                            s fighti
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ng him.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             in a rage, and said he'd teach me who was my master; and he tied
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 him tha t he might whip me till he was tired;--and he did do it! If I don't ma
                                                                                                                                               , and cut switches for young maste
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             r, and to
                    me t
                                                                                       o a tree
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      man grew dark, and his eyes burned with an expression that made his young wif
                                                                                                                                                      ber it, some time!" and the brow of th
                   ke him
                                                                                       remem
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              e young
                                                                                                                                                                made this man my master? That's what I wan
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               t to know!" he said. "Well," sa id Eliza, mournfully, "I always thought that I must obey my master
                  e tremble.
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