

## Selected Story.

### HER LAST SONG.

BY ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS.

(Continued.)

She grew to be a pretty tough case, Doherty did. And yet there was something I liked about Doherty. You see she used to sing. Sometimes they do. And once or twice I've had a chap here who could draw portraits of the rest. Scrawl the wall all over if he wasn't watched. One of the worst cases we ever had on these books, his name was Gaffrey—Peter Gaffrey. Killed an officer, finally, with a horse-shoe. He used to talk Latin when he was drunk, and some other language. I thought it was Dutch; but the chief heard him, and he guessed it was Greek. The fellow used to get the rest all ranged round like an audience, and then go at it. But generally they talk religion. It's more popular. This Doherty that I speak of, she had a beautiful voice. Time and again I've set up here looking over the books at dead of night, alone along with an officer or so, and heard the call go up from a man somewhere down below:

"Doherty! Sing us to sleep. Doherty! Sing us to sleep!"

And then Doherty from the women's cell would hear them through the wall, and she'd begin. And the fighting and swearing and all the horrid noise would quiet down; and, true enough, I think they slept. I had a Newfoundland dog that went to sleep when my wife played the cabinet organ. Sometimes that woman would sing enough to make your flesh creep. She'd lost all her looks by that time. But she never sang so when she was sober. And sometimes she'd strike up a pretty thing as clean and sweet as the lullaby my own baby hears, ma'am from my own wife's lips. Sometimes she sang "Auld Lang Syne" "Home, Sweet Home;" and once that woman picked up a song called the "Three Fisher." Maybe you know it. You could hear her all over this great building:

"For men must work, and women must weep,  
—And women must—"

"Don't you ever sing any hymns, Doherty?" I says to her one night—more to see what she would say, you know. But she looked at me made no answer, and passed on. Doherty never quite lost her ways, like other women, when she was herself. Sometimes she was quite manageable and gentle in her ways. That night she didn't sing at all. The men kept it up off and on all night. "Is Doherty in to-night?" "Hasn't Doherty come?" "Sing us to sleep, Doherty! sing us to sleep."

But she wouldn't open her lips; and when morning came—it was a snowy morning—and I let her out; she tugged a little, this way, on my sleeve, as she went out and said "Good by lieutenant." She didn't show herself again for a long while after that.

This winter she's come pretty often. In December she came nigh her fortnights term; but she cleared out just in time. Then again this month. It's been a pretty cold winter, and the woman seemed sickly. I felt sorry for her. She'd grown unpleasant looking and she coughed. I don't think she had any place of her own this season, anyway. We couldn't find out. The Cap'n and I felt a kind of interest, you see, she'd been on our books so long. It was only natural. But I do assure you ma'am, there is nothing to be done for such a case. Nothing whatever. I wouldn't look like that, if I was you. You can't help it. Him that permits 'em, He strikes 'em off our books, now and then, into His, ma'am; and best for Him and them, and us, I take it, when it happens.

Now, last night, the 23d of February, that woman, she'd just made out her fourteenth night consecutive; and I had it planned to send her to Tewsbury today. She'd be warm in the poor-house, at least, and sure of her rations. Cap'n and I both felt glad of it when we saw her stagger in. He said: "We've got her this time." And I said: "Here again, Doherty?"

I went up to speak to her, for I felt a little sorry, too, knowing it was the last time. For you couldn't understand how familiar their faces grow, nor the kind of feeling that an officer gets about them, now and then.

There is the entry just as I put it down, after so many times.

"No. 31 (she came in rather early)—  
No. 31. D.—Doherty, Ellen. Vagrancy, Sick." For we saw at once that she was pretty sick. She'd been beating about in the storm. The snow was all over her. I noticed that she had on a clean calico dress. She stood just where you're standing, ma'am, while I made the entry. It took the snow some time to melt, for it had sleeted some. She looked almost as if she was in a white

dress, she was so covered. She had her hair done up neat, too.

I thought I'd go and see her in the cell myself. So I went down. She walked very slow and seemed weak. "Tired, Doherty?" said I.

"Lieutenant," said she, "folks used to call me Nell. Nobody called me Doherty till I began to come to the police station. I don't think anybody called me that till I'd been into the house," said she.

Then I said, for I thought I'd pacify her if I could. "Are you sick to-night, Nell?"

"Oh, my God!" says she—just like that. Then she threw up her arms over her head, and began to sob and take on. But she didn't swear. She felt too sick, I take it. So we put her in with the rest, and she got into the corner and sat crying.

It was not until toward midnight that she began. They didn't get well in and quieted before that. But every now and then the men would call: "Sing us to sleep, Doherty! Where is Doherty? Doherty! Sing us to sleep!"

Concluded in our next.

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Head Hillsborough Street,  
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April 17, 1878.

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Ch'town, Sept. 21—tf

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Charlottetown, May 9, 1878.

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PUNCTUALLY AT NOON.

CARVELL, BROS.,

AGENTS.

Ch'town, May 9, 1878.—1 a w arg pat

### Mortgage Sale.

To be sold by PUBLIC AUCTION, on THURSDAY, the Twelfth day of December next, A. D. 1878, at twelve o'clock, noon, at the Court House, in Charlottetown, under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in an Indenture of Mortgage, bearing date the Fifteenth day of March, A. D. 1876, and made between Donald McLeod, of Cardigan River, in King's County, farmer, and Hannah, his wife, of the one part, and Edward Jarvis Hodgson and Neil McLeod, of Charlottetown, in Queen's County, Barristers-at-Law, of the other part (and which said Mortgage was duly assigned by the said Edward Jarvis Hodgson and Neil McLeod to Edward Jarvis Hodgson and John Ball, Trustees of the Estate of David Stuart Rennie, by assignment dated 30th March, 1878)—

ALL that Tract, Piece and Parcel of Land situate, lying and being in Cardigan, on Township Number Fifty-three, and bounded on the south by Cardigan River; on the west by land formerly in the possession of John Weatherbie, but now in possession of James Davies; on the north by the "rear line," and on the east by land in possession of Malcolm Campbell, containing, by estimation, one hundred and thirty and a half acres of land, a little more or less—together with all rights, members and appurtenances thereto belonging.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Hodgson & McLeod, Solicitors, Charlottetown.

Dated this 6th day of September, 1878.

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JOHN BALL,

Assignees of Mortgagees.

Sept. 6, 1878—1 w t s

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May 25, 1878—