

Selected Miscellany.

A MOTHER'S ANSWER.

BY LILLIE E. BARR.

Over the lofty Ben-Lomond
The charm of the sunset fell;
And sweet in the purple twilight
The chime of the old kirk bell.

"POOR UNCLE SI."

I shall never forget that bright, sunny afternoon, when my father stood looking down at us, my two brothers and myself.
We had been planning, with great glee, how we would dress up some dark night, and in the characters of ghosts, frighten a certain timid schoolfellow of ours.

"His mother was an Irish woman, and was full of queer superstitions. There seemed nothing too marvelous for her to credit, and Silas had inherited this superstitious tendency in a great degree.
We boys soon found out his weakness, and nothing pleased us more than after the afternoon session was over, to sit on the school-house steps and vie with each other in inventing the most outrageous and startling stories of ghosts, robbers, and murderers.

mind would never come back again, and from that time to this he has been just as you see him now.
As long as his unhappy mother lived your Uncle John and I helped her to take care of him, and ever since her death, long years ago, we have entirely supported the miserable victim of our cruel 'fun,' though it was more my sin than your uncle's, for I was the ringleader.
My father ended his story, and sat looking down at our awe-struck faces as we murmured in sorrowful tones, 'Poor Uncle Silas!'

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