



A LITTLE PRINCESS by Brian Crawley

MISS MINCHIN: Would the *Times* print it if it weren't true? Word has reached London of Captain Crewe's treason against Her Majesty's Government. Your father abandoned his trek to Timbuktu in order to lead a slave caravan to the coast. A feverish demise put a stop to his treachery. We are all disappointed by our fathers eventually; the sooner the better. Second only to his villainy to the Queen, I think, was his negligence in dying intestate. Once the case is taken to Chancery Court you won't see a penny for years. He left no will! As the Government has now secured his estate, you have nothing – no relations, no home – you are an orphan, and a beggar! Do you think I toy with you, girl? Look at this party. Do you know who paid for it? I did! Do you know when your father will repay me? Never! Do you know what happened to the Timbuktu corporation? It has collapsed, my shares are worthless, and my savings gone!