

THE KING.

They rode right out of the morning sun;
A glimmering, glittering cavalcade
Of knights and ladies, and every one
In princely shoes arrayed.

ONE PAIR OF GLOVES.

Thirty-three years ago this autumn,
A little boat was dropping slowly down
The Medway, below the old stone bridge
Of Maidstone.

It was not an evening when love needed
To plead; he could let his presence blend
With all other sweet influences, and trust
To the effect of Bessie's smile and hand.

"See, Ralph; there are lights in the
parlor! We must go home."
"Wait here one minute, Bessie; I have
something to ask you."

"I will, Ralph."
And when they came in among the old-
fashioned flower-beds, they were solemnly
pledged to share life's fortune together.

"Bessie, this has been a great night for
me; give me this glove, that I may know
tomorrow it was not all a dream."

"Take it, Ralph," she said, "it is my
glove, and I will give you my promise."

Ralph put the delicate little pledge away
and went up to London. He had some-
thing to work for and hope, now, and he
soon made these influences tell.

But he was no better able to bear sud-
den riches than most men are. He imme-
diately launched into unusual expenses—
furnished the Hall, and rebuilt his kennels.

The next year's crop was another suc-
cess, and the squire began to build fine
cast-houses on his land, for he was now
determined to have everything necessary

to the culture of hops of the very latest and
best description. In the meantime, the
whole family were learning extravagances
never thought of in the days of simple
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dress and watering-places. The squire,
with all his influx of ready money, was
always in a tight place.

In the second winter of her engagement,
Bessie was to stay with a new acquaint-
ance in London. As far as Ralph was
concerned, it was a very unhappy visit.

Indeed, the possibility of breaking it off
had now entered her mind, and being once
admitted, it made rapid progress, and love
dropped like a stone from her heart.

When a man is constant, there is no con-
stantly like it. Ralph refused to blame
Bessie; everything and everybody were
wrong but she; and he treasured the little
glove, that had been such a faithful guide,

He had destroyed every memento
of his engagement except one; but on that
night in England, when he had sadly
burnt Bessie's letters, and her little gipsies,

It found its place in no very romantic
place—a secret drawer in his medicine
chest—and there through eighteen long
years it remained untouched and unlooked
at.

He grew attached to his Indian life.
One relay of officers after another was ex-
changed, or sent home on long furloughs,
but Ralph never thought of any change

save a few weeks every summer to the cool
heights of the Neillgherry. Probably he
would have died a very contented exile, if
he had not received a letter in the eighteenth
year of his Indian life, telling him that he

had become the lawful heir to the barony
of Erroll and Hastings.
Then he went back to England. But
after the first excitement and pleasure of
his return and his new position were over,

He had come up to London with this
idea in embryo, resolving to make inqui-
ries and preparations there. Bessie had
no place in this movement. He knew,
indeed, that she was living in Hampshire;

He did not hurry his preparations, but
talked at the various clubs with various
travellers on polar and tropic lands, and
wavered considerably in his intentions.

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