be quite cold, and the bacon not worth eating. Do come down from clouds and tell me what you are dreaming about ?'

"I am thinking of my Uncle's letter. Oh! Webbie dear! I wonder what they are all like—these strange Irish cousins that I have

mever seen!"

Mrs. Webb drank her coffee and helped herself liberally from the various dishes on the perfectly appointed breakfast-table, before replying. She was middle-aged, stout and portly, and liked the creature comforts of this life.

Clare Castlemaine's coffee stood untasted before her, and she was reading once more the letter of which she already knew almost

My dear Niece,-It was with sincere sympathy and sorrow that I received your last letter informing me of your changed circumstances. I cannot tell you how more than sur-prised I was. We all thought your late father to be a prudent as well as an extremely wealthy man, and seems strange that it seems strange that he should have practically lost all his fortune by such reckless speculation. But one hears of such cases now and then, and you may be glad that you have at least a little left from

But now that you are no longer separated from us by great wealth, I am wondering would you care to come over and make the acquaintance of your mother's people? We are a large family and not well off, but I think we could make you comfortwill come over and pay us as long a visit as you like. Just let us know and we will be ready to meet you

with a real Irish welcome.
"I remain, my dear child, 'Your affectionate Uncle, 'JAMES BLAKE.'

At the foot of the letter, in an unformed girlish hand was scrawled "P.S. Do come, please, des lare. Your loving cousin, Angel. "Which is Angel, I wonder?" Clare said aloud, "they are such a large family! Webbie, did you ever hear my mother speak much of her people?"
Mrs. Webb considered for a

"No, my dear," she said slowly,
"I don't think she ever referred much to them,—at least not since I knew her. You know they never really forgave her for marrying as she did. The Blakes are an old Catholic family, and your poor father being not only English, but a declared Agnostic, was their direct opposite in every way."

Clare Castlemaine wrinkled up her pretty forehead in perplexity. She could not remember her mother, who had died when she was only a a very lonely childhood, although she was brought up in luxury and had splendid nurseries, expensive toys and clothes of every description, a highly trained head-nurse, with various under-nurses, and in fact all the care and attention with which wealthy people surround their children nowadays. Later on came governesses and masters, and then a finishing school in France. It was strange that the girl was not spoilt, brought up as she had been, for her father idolised her and never allow her to have a wish unfulfilled, if he could help it. He was a very wealthy stockbroker -a man who seemed to really change everything he touched into gold,—his name was one to conjure with in London financial circles, and when he died suddenly from cerebral hemorrhage, a few weeks before this story opens, and it was discovered that he had been losing heavily and lately had taken to reckless speculation to retrieve his fortunes, with a result that he died almost penniless, the astonishment of all those who knew him was

His daughter Clare, who was now twenty-two, had a small annuity of £50 left her by an aunt annuity of £50 left her by an aunt some years ago—beyond that she had literally nothing. Luckily there were few outstanding debts, and the sale of the furniture and other effects of the house in South Kensington would more than pay all and leave Clare affair amount of money in hand. Then she had a most exquisite wardrobe of every description of clothes, and her jewellery, so that she was not left destitute as she imagined. Still for a girl reared as she had been, for a girl reared as sne nad been, the change in her fortunes would be very great. Her sole income fifty pounds a year! "Just about the price of two decent frocks!"

ne thought with a gasp.

Mrs. Webb had been her companion for some years now, she was a very distant connection of her late father's and being left a widow with limited means had been only too pleased to fill her present position. It was now three weeks since the death of Mr. Castlemaine, the sale was to take place within the next week, the house given up and the servants discharged. Mrs. Webb was returning to her people in the Midlands, and Clare, feeling a lost child—so helpless and wretched, overwhelmed with her the same afterwards, not that she lived for long, poor thing!"

Clare sighed.

"Poor Mother!" she said softly, "and poor Daddy, too! Look at the result of his system in me. To the casual observer Mr. I things—I will have to attend on Alonzo Miller, Sr., did not appear. and the servants discharged. Mrs. Webb was returning to her people

HER IRISH HERITAGE]
BY ANNIE M. P. SMITHSON
AUTHOR OF "BY STRANGE PATHS"

CHAPTER I
IN SOUTH KENSINGTON
"My dear Clare, your coffee will be quite cold, and the bacon not worth eating. Do come down from worth eating. Do come down from how the first how could go for awhile until she became more used to her altered circumstances. Even in this short time she had discovered that in the eyes of the majority of those who had made up the circle you know I have been looking up the subject lately and what do I find? Chaos everywhere! High Church, Low Church, Broad Church — all totally different in belief and twenty-two years of age, with no religious beliefs at all, quite unable to make up my mind and side to make up my mind and several the various seets I see around me. Why, Webbie! to me it seems impossible to tell which is tright, how could I ever decide? You know I have been looking up the subject lately and what do I find? Chaos everywhere! High Church, Low Church, Broad Church — all totally different in belief and the could go for awhile until she became more used to her all the various seets I see around me. Why, Webbie! to me it seems impossible to tell which is tright, how could I ever decide? You know I have been looking up the subject lately and what do I find? Chaos everywhere! High Church — all totally different in belief and the properties of the majority of the properties. to the rich Miss Castlemaine, who had always been such an honored individual amongst them. They were civil and friendly more or less but since her position had become known calls and letters of condolence and sympathy had become fewer and colder, and amongst all those whom she had known and entertained so layishly in the past. entertained so lavishly in the past, after all.' not one real friend had come for- "Oh! tality.

any communication with her Irish relatives, and on the spur of the moment she had replied to his letter and written fully, telling him of her father's financial losses "Now Webbie! have some sense"

complete change of air and scene, a think we could make you comfortable for awhile. Your cousins all join with me in hoping that you you would be bound to be taken out of yourself and that would be really good for you. But on the other hand I don't know how you would amalgamate with your cousins' ideas and with their mode of life. Gods! Who knows how I may turn good for you. But on the other hand I don't know how you would

Her voice broke as she tried to smile, for she was very fond of Clare Castlemaine, and all this upset and change was a real heartbreak to the good-natured soul.

"Oh! Webbie! I know—I know!" and Clare patted the fat hand near hers. "You are a dear! But I think I will goover to Ireland for awhile,—just to see what it is like. They can't eat me, anyway!" trying bravely to laugh, "but I wish you would tell me all you can know Father could never bear to know Father could never bear to speak about her. Of course I know she was very beautiful from the painting in his study, and I know she was Irish and a Catholic, and that he adored her—and yet, somehow, I always have the impression that my mother was not really happy."

Mrs. Webb considered for a few minutes before replying.

What I will leave in your charge. And then I must write to Uncle James and tell him that I hope to be with him next week—I can settle the day later."

Now that her mind was really made up, Clare felt brighter and happier in every way. Her father's sudden death had been a great shock to her, although her regard for him was more that of quiet affection there all the speak about her. Of course I know she was very beautiful from the be with him next week—I can settle thought—we wek—I can settle like him.

"I've had more scraps in the veek—I've wek—I've wek—I've wek—I've wek—I've wek—I've wek—I've had no with the thing the consulted to the wek—I've wek—I've wek—I've wek—I've wek—I've wek—I've wek—I've wek—I've wek—I've wek—

heart.

tion your father turned a deaf ear. He allowed your mother full liberty in the matter of her own religion, but you know his ideas about chil-

not one real friend had come for-ward with offers of help or hospi-tality.

"Oh! my dear! don't talk like that! I can never think of you as a woman without a religion—you James Blake, her mother's were not meant for that. If you brother, had written from Dublin would only put aside these queer when he saw the notice of her notions and not be worrying over such things, but go to Church—for James Blake, her mother's were not meant for that! If you father's death in the papers—a such things, but go to Church—for sympathetic, friendly letter. It was the first time that she had held joining the dissenters, they are not

him of her father's financial losses and exactly how she was left. The letter she had received this morning was her uncle's answer, and she was now pondering it all over in her mind and wondering if she should accept the invitation or not. In some ways it seemed the very thing, but somehow she shrank from these unknown relations with their Irish upbringing and environment.

"Oh! Webbie!" she cried. "Now Webbie! have some sense "Oh! Webbie!" she cried, woman, imaginative, religious, sen-"what would you advise me to do? Do you think I should go?" woman, imaginative, religious, sen-sitive and impulsive—in other words a typical Celt—as great an idealist "My dear, you must please yourself," said her companion, as she placidly spread marmalade on her toast. "In some ways I think it would be an excellent plan,— complete charge of air and seen.

Then she suddenly laughed as she caught a glimpse of Mrs. Webb's bewildered and rather shocked expression,

Still, for a visit—and after all you need not stay unless you care. You convent and live in dungeons behind know, my dear girl, that my little home, humble as it is, will be always open to you and I don't need girl we heard about at those "No to tell you how really welcome you will always be to your poor Webbie."

Popery "lectures you dragged me to once!"

"My dear!" said Mrs. Webb,

happy."

Mrs. Webb considered for a few minutes before replying.

"I only saw your mother a few times altogether," she said then, and she spoke slowly, as though trying to remember better—" she was very beautiful and very young—not like van in appearance Class. mot like you in appearance Clare, for although you are very lovely too, you have the fair coloring of your she had been to him. Once the you have the fair coloring of your shock of his death was past there was dark, with the most lovely changed circumstances and poor was dark, with the most lovely had come the realization of her Louise broke in shakily, "But Look at the way he's planning—"

Louise broke in shakily, "But Look at the way he's planning—"

"Well, look at the way dusky sort of hair and beautiful big grey eyes with such long lashes. She had the sweetest voice and accent I think that I have ever heard, and a lot of little fascinating mannerishs and gosticulations— and gosticulations— and gosticulations— want you to be happy— want you to be happy— Louise broke in shakily, "But Louise broke in sha mannerisms and gesticulations— something like a Frenchwoman, but then the Irish and French are but then the Irish and French are alike in many ways, you know. She adored your father—it was a mutual love and certainly a case of way—and she meant to try and the meant to try extremes meeting, for two people get the best she could out of it. more unlike in every way I never The girl was a strange mixture—as knew. Yet, as you say, she never she had remarked herself, she was ordinary man to be judg seemed really happy—it would be the child of a strange union—and mere standard of age! difficult to understand why, for your father grudged her nothing, he surrounded her with every luxury and comfort he could think of—another woman would have been quite spoilt! Of course there was one thing he refused her which was one thing he refused her which | derived from her Irish mother would believe she took very much to show themselves better if she was transplanted to Irish soil. Mrs. Webb paused for a moment, unknown to herself she had always but Clare said eagerly, "Oh! go on Webbie? What was it that my father refused her?"

but Clare said eagerly, "Oh! go felt a strange wish for Ireland and the Irish, and yet they were a sealed book to her;—like the ordinary "Well! It was a question of religion. He refused to allow you to be baptised and you were not to she did of the North Pole; in fact, receive any religious instruction.

This distressed your mother very much for she was a devout Cathonic sciously Ireland was calling to her, much for she was a devout Catholic, and her religion always seemed to be very precious to her, but to all her tears and prayers in that direction your father turned a deaf ear.

eagerness to her visit to her mother's She was sitting on the floor of her den—to teach them nothing and let them form their own opinions when they are old enough to judge description, and although she was when they are old enough to judge for themselves. I think his refusal to have you baptized really broke your mother's heart—she was never the same afterwards, not that she lived for long poor thing!"

wardrobe and tried to forget awhile her present sorrow and the unknown future.

TO BE CONTINUED

EVERY ONE MAKES MISTAKES

By Helen Moriarty in Rosary Magazine When Louise, who had a mature mind and well-defined ideas, told her mother that she was going to marry Mr. Alonzo Miller, Mrs. Breen almost fainted with surprise. "Mr. Miller!" She came up gasping. "Of course you mean-

her helplessly. "But he's almost twice as old as you, Louise. Why I never dreamed of such a thing !"
"Oh, I did," in a superior tone.
"And really years don't matter.

We are so very congenial. I don't know any one I enjoy more."

Mrs. Breen sighed. "Well... if you—if you're satisfied, of course—" She checked the momentary impulse to say, "if you love him," and went on rather wistfully, "But poor Lonnie! Louise, I always thought it was Lonnie."

always thought it was Lonnie "I don't see why," impatiently.
"I never thought of Lonnie—he "I never thought of Lonnie—he knew that. He's known about his father, too—for some time. He's our little friend Louise is going to perfectly satisfied—his father says

said stiffly. "We'll be chums, just as we've always been. Mr. Miller says that's one thing makes it so Miller was reputed to be a millionaire, two facts which seemed uncon-

this is the queerest thing ever!" she vouchsafed. "If he's marrying to give Lonnie a companion—"
With a shrug she left the sentence and its implication in the air, while Louise turned away with a hurt

"All right, Mother, if that's the

The girl's face assumed such a disappointed look that the mother's

"God knows, dear, I do wish Accord- you joy." But her whole air was you joy." But her whole all was so charged with mournfulness that Louise fled away to her own room, go abroad with them—that's all go abroad with a wry smile. Louise fled away to her own room, where she gave vent to a resentful shower of tears. How perfectly horrid of her mother to act this way —as though Mr. Miller were an ordinary man to be judged by the nad chosen her, his little comrade, as he had always called her, to be the solace of his lonely life. Those were the very words he had used, in that deep, exquisitely modulated voice of his, and Louise's sensitive soul had at once responded to the wondrous call. She could visualize herself as his devoted companion, the head of his house, thoughtful of his interests, joining with Lonnie in worthing over him for thought, because I always have the strained.

Louise was bewildered and unhappy. She missed Lonnie and she missed the diversion of his invitations were appropriate the soft. But I strained.

Louise was bewildered and unhappy. She missed Lonnie and she missed the diversion of his invitations were appropriate the soft. But I strained. watching over him (for though the most fascinating he was the most absent-minded of men)—in short, she could see herself—oh, beautiful glance at Mrs. Breen.

"The watching over him (for though the most insists on it. . . . and he tion, at which she had often lightly scoffed. At first she had secretly been a little glad, for now, she told herself, she would have a absent-minded of men)—in short, she could see herself—oh, beautiful words!—"the solace of his lonely life!" She was happy—she would think—I know. Louise isn't in love with her future husband's interbe happy, no matter what any one said or thought. She supposed other people would be surprised, too. To this phase of the matter been lavishing on her, and naturally the surprised of the matter been lavishing on her, and naturally further from Mr. Miller's intention she had not so far given a thought, she had been so joyous and uplifted, but though always pretty sure of herself, her mother's reception of the happy news had sowed the second of the second of the happy news had sowed the second of the sec but though always pretty sure of herself, her mother's reception of the happy news had somewhat shaken Louise. She wanted every-young fiancee on his hands he body to congratulate her, to tell her how happy she ought to be, and so on. That any one else might look at it as her mother had stung her with a sense of curious uneasiness, and a faint shadow fell across

myself and do my own hair and everything! Oh! I must be sensible and not let my thoughts wander any more," she sighed, but then suddenly rousing herself she said to the maid:

"We had better go through the said to the maid:

"We had better go through tries. Annette, and then I can give you all my colored things to put away and let the trunks be sent on to Mrs. Webb's house. There are two black dinner frocks here which I think I will take with me."

And so with an effort Clare flung herself into the details of her in any immediate need of solace, nor was his life in any sense a lonely one. Handsome, distinguished and popular, no man in the city was more sought after or enjoyed his popularity more. A retired manufacturer with plenty of money, he was a patron of music and art and of all civic and social movements. No new project was launched without his imprimatur, no committee without his name was considered worthy of bublication. He was the bright particular star of exclusive dinners. Neither was his popularity confined to the ladies, breen when he became engaged to his popularity confined to the ladies, for Mr. Miller was one of those sweet and genial souls whom everysweet and genial souls whom every-body loved. He was admired, imitated, envied. But, lonely? His friends would have scoffed at

sweet and genial souls whom everybody loved. He was admired, imitated, envied. But, lonely? His friends would have scoffed at the idea. Why, he never had time to be lonely!

The curious engagement seemed to make no difference in Lonnie's attitude toward Louise. He and his father dropped into Breens just as they always had, and sometimes when Mr. Miller and Mr. Breen became engrossed in an interesting discussion, the former would signal "Well. don't put them saide." "In the been a wunderful son. I advise been a wunderful son. I advise been a wunderful son. I advise you from now on to take a different tack. That is," in a meaning tone, "if you care anything about Louise and her happiness." "Care about Louise?" reproachfully. Lonnie looked hurt. "You know I've always cared about house." The been a wunderful son. I advise you from now on to take a different tack. That is," in a meaning tone, "if you care anything about Louise and her happiness." "Care about Louise?" reproachfully. Lonnie looked hurt. "You know I've always cared about house." The been a wunderful son. I advise you from now on to take a different tack. That is, "in a meaning tone, "if you care anything about Louise and her happiness." "Care about Louise?" reproachfully. Lonnie looked hurt. "You know I've always cared about house." The been a wunderful son. I advise you from now on to take a different tack. That is, "if you care anything about Louise?" if you care anything about Louise? The b discussion, the former would signal his son and bid him take Louise to a picture show or to the Art Museum or some other place.

"You know," he said to Mr.
Breen one night, looking fondly after the pair, "young people must have amusement. I don't want to "Lonnie blinked his amazement." tie Louise down to my dull inter-ests, and it's fortunate that she and objected. Lonnie have always been like brother and sister. . . Don't you think so?" he asked, after a moment as his host said nothing.

Significant in the formal probably will in the solution of the solution in the solution of the solution in the s

was his wife. He was not only keenly disappointed at Louise's one without exception thought it "With you for a step-mother?"

Louise registered sudden and sharp irritation. "I don't expect to be Lonnie's step-mother," she said stiffly. "We'll be chums, just as we've always been. Mr. Miller was all considered of Lonnie," or, Mr. Breen," it was all one to him. He knew what they were thinking, and it irked him on his own account as we'll as Louise's. The Breens were only well-to-do, while Alonzo Miller was that's marry Lon instead of Lonnie delightful—Lonnie will have a sciously to color all comment and companion of his own age." sciously to color all comment and companion of his own age." Mrs. Breen stared and then burst into a hysterical laugh. "Well, he is a wonderful man, and very fascinating: but if she isn't marry ing him for his money I'll eat my hat!"

Lonnie had a hard time of it, too, and one day he sought counsel with Mrs. Breen. "Everybody's criticis-ing Louise," he told her gloomy. "I've had more scraps in the past

Mrs. Breen regarded him imatiently. "And he thinks he is, patiently. "And he thinks he is, but he isn't," she stated cryptically. Mother Breen, I think Dad's crazy about Louise! Can't you see it? "Well, look at the way he's

isten, Lonnie," in an "Can you think of a when you don't planning! Listen, Lonnie, intent tone. Tears came into the mother's eyes single plan he's made that doesn't include you

"That's only his kindness," said e son hastily. "Of course I won't with a wry nonsense, Though he and Louise both say they won't go without me.
"Aha!" significantly.

Aha!" significantly. "You And though your father is engaged to Louise, who is her chief

doesn't know what to do with her. His interests are wide and varied, but, they're not in Louise's line. Perhaps he thinks it will be nice to have a pretty young wife as long as he has a son to amuse her and play

Mrs. Breen sat up energetically.
"Well, don't put them aside!" she
ejaculated. "Act like any other young man would and leave your father and Louise to their own

"But Louise'll miss me." h objected. "I mean, she'll probabl

Mr. Breen was looking down and knocking the ash from his cigar. He replied dryly, "Yes, it is fortunate, Lon. Now about this new committee—" and the looks to me like a chance. . . " A variety of expressions chased themselves over Lonnie's face as he like a chance. . . . " A variety of expressions chased themselves over Lonnie's face as he For Mr. Breen was not any more listened, and when at last he asked satisfied with the engagement than whether she was sure it wouldn't be disloyal to his father, Mrs. Breen retorted, "He didn't think it choice, but he had to bear the was disloyal to you, did he, proposbrunt of their friends' surprise, ing to the girl you had always open and suggested. That every expected to marry? Well, then!"

So Lonnie gradually quit going to the Breens. He would drop in occasionally for a few minutes, not to make his defection too pointed, but he was always on his way some place, or had another engagement. Also, he always happened to have another engagement when his father suggested that he take Louise to a

certain dance or party.
"It seems to me," he said, "that you are having a great many engagements lately."

And Lonnie answered with a nonchalant grin, "Sure thing.
Getting to be pretty nearly as
popular as my Dad—what?"
His father's face was grave. "I

rather thought you'd take Louise tonight," was his only comment. Lonniesimulated surprise. "Oh!" he said, "I didn't know. But don't you think," gently, " that Louise would like you to take her once in awhile?

'Once in awhile?" The sweettempered Mr. Miller was put out, it was clear. "I escort Louise to all suitable places, of course, but to dances and things like that, I thought—" he paused. Lonnie thought-" he paused. Lonnie ought to know what he thought without any further words.

But Lonnie only murmured absently, "Uh-huh, Louise does like to dance, doesn't she? It's too bad I'm tied up

And that's all the satisfaction he gave his father, who went off in a huff, unhappily committed to the DRUGS CUT FLOWERS wife, for one evening, at least. And as the evenings became more frequent, he began to find Why, more and more irksome. Louise was the dearest girl in the worldso he told himself-and all too passionately desirous of making his interests and pleasures hers. But the fact of the matter was that he had not allowed his engagement to interfere with a large number of pleasant feminine friendships, and the intrusion of the youthful and demandful Louise into these charmed circles would infuse an entirely new and foreign element-one, in fact, quite calculated to destroy the charm completely. Mr. Miller had no intention of denying himself the intellectual stimulus various cultured groups, but as time went on he began to experi-ence some difficulty in explaining to Louise where he had been, and why he continued to accept so many invitations when she was not included. To a man of his temperament explanations were abhorrent

opinion he would perhaps smile indulgently, and say, "Wait until you're a little older, my dear, and you will see the fallacy of such statements. Now, Mrs. Wentworth said the other evening.

Louise began to loathe the very names of the cultured ladies whose sentiments he was fond of quoting with every appearance of admiraescort for her."

Lonnie jumped to his feet. "But I won't!" he cried explosively. "Do you think that I—do you that of youth, and she often sighed

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