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"Flowers of the Valley,"
OR
MABEL HOWARD, OF THE LYRIC.

The signor made a grimace. "That would have been a waste most sinful, your grace," he said. The duke smiled. "I don't care about the money—so much; but I should like to prove that the young lady isn't so unapproachable, you understand?" The signor understood perfectly. "Yes, yes, certainly! Saints and angels, what is the pally sum to his Grace of Rosedale? No! It is to win the victory, the triumph!" "Exactly," said the duke. He looked round the room with his small twinkling eyes for a moment, then, as the clear sweet voice of Iris rose and penetrated to the saloon, he started and trotted off to his box without another word. The signor did not go into the theatre, for reasons of his own, he was not at all desirous of reminding Iris of his existence that night. Instead, he went out into the streets and walked about until the play was over. Iris had looked for him, as usual, and, not seeing him, had sung and acted better and more brightly even than usual. "Your voice improves, my dear," said Mrs. Berry, as she helped "the dresser" to exchange the white satin robe of the last scene for Iris' plain, everyday clothes; "but you don't look well, my dear. You look pale, and are you unhappy, my dear?" Iris smiled faintly. "Isn't every one unhappy, more or less, dear Mrs. Berry?" she said, putting the question aside. Mrs. Berry looked at her searchingly. "Young, beautiful, the favorite of the people—and not happy!" she said. "It is a funny world!" "Is it?" said Iris, smiling again. "I haven't found much fun in it—as yet." At this moment Paul knocked. "Mr. Montmorency is going to hear me play over the score in half-an-hour, Mabel," he said. He looked pale and anxious, and restless with eager excitement, and Iris drew him toward her and stroked



Nervous Breakdown
The extreme depression and discouragement which comes over one at times is the most alarming symptom of nervous exhaustion. This letter is a message of hope to all who find themselves in this unfortunate condition. Mrs. Geo. T. Tingley, Albert, N.B., writes:— "For years I was in a very nervous, run-down condition, was much depressed in spirits and suffered a great deal at times. The least noise would irritate me and at times I felt as though I certainly would go crazy. I consulted different doctors to no effect. "A friend advised me the use of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food and I can truly testify today it did the greatest benefit received. There was a marked change before I had finished the second box and when I had used a dozen boxes my nerves were thoroughly restored and I was entirely relieved of those terrible feelings I used to have. I shall ever be ready to testify to the benefits of this wonderful medicine, feeling sure that it will give to others the quick and permanent relief it has given me." At All Dealers. Distributor: **GERALD S. DOYLE.**

The Meanest Man.
Eleven years have passed since Mark Train died, and the greatest tribute to his genius is that no humorist has arisen to take his place. Opinions differ as to which was his funniest story, but there are those who think that his yarn about the meanest man is not easily beaten. "The meanest man I ever knew," he said, "lived in Hannibal. He sold his son-in-law the half of a very fine cow, and then refused to share the milk with him, on the ground that he had only sold him the front half. The son-in-law was always compelled to carry all the cow's fodder, and to carry the water to her twice a day. Finally the cow butted the old man through a barbed wire fence, and he sued his son-in-law for damages." No one had ever seen her at any social gathering. People sought her in the Row or the drive in vain; the gilded youths complained that—"You couldn't even buy her photograph, if she was to appear at a smoking concert of the Midnight, and that the Duke of Rosedale had staked a hundred pounds on her presence!" The suite of rooms at the Midnight were beautifully decorated and furnished, as befits a place in which dukes and earls spend their brightest hours. It was said that nowhere in London, or even Paris, could you get so recherche a supper, or such rare wines, and people who used to be fond of declaring that the House of Commons was the best club in London, now added—"after the Midnight." On this particular night the supper parties had hurried over the meal, and leaving the magnificent salle a manger, had hastened into the smoking-room, in which the concerts were held, and which was large enough to form a fair auditorium. The concert commenced at twelve, twelve punctually, and at that hour four of the best singers of the day—all gentlemen—gave of a quartet. People were laughing and talking in an undertone nearly all the time, and there was a buzz of suppressed excitement and curiosity which indicated that the concert was not the chief attraction for that evening. Presently Lord Rallsford, accompanied by a sporting marquis and one of the Cabinet Council, came in. Their entrance caused a little stir, and as they made their way to seats near a small table, people exchanged glances significantly. Lord Rallsford looked round, and nodded to one and another with his pleasant smile; then he turned to the cabinet minister. "I'm afraid you'll think you've wasted your time, Gainsford," he said, "and wish yourself back in the House! But don't blame me; I told you all along that she wouldn't come. It is impossible." The right honorable smiled in his grave way. He was an admirer of Miss Mabel Howard, and the rumor that she was to appear at the Midnight had surprised him and had excited his curiosity so deeply that, at some sacrifice, he had left the ministerial benches to see for himself how the wager would be decided. "I hope she won't," he said quietly. "I like Miss Howard, and I should have thought this the last place in the world in which to see her." "Just so," said Rallsford. "It's ridiculous. Why, I think I told you that my mother asked her to the nicest way to come to one of her 'at homes,' and she refused. Why on earth should she come here?" (To be continued)

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