LE-SONG OF THE POOR. I did the love that I must bring my hus-

watched thy beauty fading, and thy strength sink day by day on, I know, will want and fever Take thy little life away. 'amine makes thy father reckless. Hope has left both him and me; We could suffer all, my baby, Ilad we but a crust for thee.

Better thou should perish early Star's so soon, my darling one. Than in helpless sin and sorrow Vainly live as I have done. Better that thy angel spirit With my joy, my peace, were flown. Than thy heart grew cold and careleas. Reckless, hopeless, like my own.

I am wasted, dear, with hunger, And my brain is all opprest, I have scarcely strength to press th Wan and feeble, to my breast. Patience, baby, God will he'p us, Death will come to thee and me, He will take us to his heaven,

Where no want or pain can be.

THE MYSTERY OF FULTON

By Mrs. Beatrice McGowan.

[Continued.] CHAPTER V.

after that dreadful day at Cramer Castle, the snow lay thic! and white upon the ground.

I remember wondering why I felts strangely weak that I could not even raise myself in the bed.

"My dear, you have been very ill. Have a little patience. Diane, and the strength will soon came back."

It was Lady Valence who spoke, and I noticed a strange, gentleness in her voice.

I was lying, propped up with pillows in her own sitting room—my first attempt down stairs—listening, also for the first time, to what had all been a mystery evenince, the end of my adventure at Cramer.

It appeared that when I had heard the shout, Sir Reginald had discovered brave old Roberts in the very act of litting Alice off her perilous perch. In his rude know-ledge he had discovered that of which we would never have dreamed. That underneath the thick growth of ivy—to the left of where she was sitting—were the remains of a flight of stone steps, evidently forming a secret stairway—as they were sank in the masonery of the will—between the keep and some other tower, since falen into decay. By clinging to the overgrowth it had alforded the old man ample bounding to reach and rescue the child without further needs of my romantic services.

ment.

"Please, don't speak of it now. I en treated, all the wretched recollections of the pain I had suffered coming back, with her words. "He could not do anything else, and I made him let me go."

"You are a good girl, Di., and J.b.

"Mor unworthy of him!
"Your words—reluctant as I would be
be believe it—certainly implied so. You
said I would not sanction it, did I know
all, my dear. I have known you but a
short time; my son I have known all his
if..."

Should I tell her if she was ignorant?
Had I any right to betray Sir Reginald, even to his mother? Might he not in mercy to her—have deceived her in regard.

A blee's propagate.

to Alice's parentage!
Surely, had I been in my right senses
I could never have held such a supposition
over a second. Deceive Lady Val-

I did the love that I must bring my husband.

I only wonder that I did not cry aloud in my torture. I who loved him bettereven then—than, God forgive me, I loved my own life.

"I am afraid, my dear, that your answer will cause great pain. I think that he quite expected something, very diment. Perhaps I had better tell him and—"No, No, I cried, "tell him nothing He will take it better from me. Dear. Lady Valence do not speak of it any more for the love of Heaven.

Perhaps sha saw how weak I really was, and that prevented her from feeling surprised at my strange vehemence.

For days after that I never left my own rooms, except to sit with Lady Valence, and that only at such times that I knew we were perfectly safe from intrusion.

I persistently refused to see Six Regional although not a day passed but some kind message reached me from him.

Miss Carleon had gone back to her home in Hythe, taking Alice with her, during the first week of my illness.

It wanted but one day to Christmas. I could see from the windows the men bringing in the holly and mistletoe for the usual Christmas decorations.

Dear old English custom: O how I love it. Wreathing all the home shrines in the beautiful evergreen, so typical of what the home love should be: making the hearts of the children overflow in delightful anticipations of wonderful trees, laden with all the stores of St. Niciolas.

Mistletoe boughs for the young people—"Ah nobody knows or ever shall know, What is done under the mistletoe."

"Ah nobody knows or ever shall know, What is done under the mistletoe."

And then for the elders, floating vision.

"Ah, nobody knows, nor ever shall know, What is done under the mistletoe."

what is done under the misteloc.

And then for the elders, floating visions of steaming punch bowls, good cheer and the hearty exact had to our Saxon and cotors. While over every christian country to be used t

that saved us all.

I crept down to the drawing-room, in the dusk of the evening, to see the decorations before the lamps should be lit.

Every where, where a bit of holiy was-possible it had been placed, the red betree-lying in pretty contrast to the dark green of the leaves. Over pictures, doors, cornices—every thing was wrached with it, and on the centre of the great arch, a crown of mistleton hung in waiting.

Never the system of meaning in waiting.

s. the prison of clay.

Y NOW AND THEN.

worning, ofter a night of exect region. I standard the control of the control of the case of the property of the control of th

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