POETRY.

THE BLESSING OF A SONG.

- "What a friend we have in Jesus," Sang a little child one day; And a weary woman listened
- To the darling's happy lay. All her life seemed dary and gloomy, And her heart was sad with care; Sweetly rang out baby's treble,
- "All our griefs and sins to bear." She was pointing out the Saviour. Who could carry every woe; And the one who sadly listened Needed that dear helper so!
- Sin and grief were heavy burdens For a fainting soul to bear; But the baby, singing, bade her "Take it to the Lord in prayer."
- With a simple, trusting spirit, Weak and worn she turned to God. Asking Christ to take her burden, As he was the sinner's Lord.
- Jesus was the only refuge; He could take her sin'and care; And he blessed the weary woman
- When she came to him in prayer. And the happy child, still singing, Little knew she had a part In God's wondrous work of bringing Peace unto a troubled heart

SELECT STORY.

OUEEN OF HIS HEART.

CHAPTER III. CONTINUED.

Carlyle sank into silence: He was good natured young fellow, ugly and herself to take so decided a step. clever, with his own way to make in the world, and a mother and sister dependent on him. Had it been otherwise, had his prospects been brighter, Evelyn Palmer was the girl he would have asked to become his wife; as it was, he never spoke of his love, or showed in any way how dear she was to him.

Now and then he would come down to Brighton from Saturday to Monday, would see her, would talk to her just as a friend and nothing nearer or dearer. As he sat quietly watching her, he noticed how changed she had grown; there was a weary look in her blue eyes; a downward curve of the lips. She looked ill and list less as she gazed thoughtfully across the broad expanse of dazzling water; he wondered if it was the approaching marriage of her mother that was troubling

That gay little woman was strutting up the distance she looked lovely as a picture, like a picture in more ways than one; but Mrs. Palmer was quite contented, she firmly believed that no human eye could Gordon was indulging in. detect the paint and powder.

She attracted a good deal of attention as she walked to and fro, and innocently have been rather surprised could she have overheard a few of the remarks made, not only upon herself but upon her cavalier.

him, in fact no one would know him, though Mrs. Palmer tried vainly to make him popular among her friends. They all politely refused to have anything to say to him. It was all jealcusy, of course. The widow was quite sure of that, and through it several quarrels took place between Mrs. Palmer and her most respected and influential friends. People took the trouble to write to her, telling her Captain Gordon was a mere fortune hunter, and that she would bitterly regret it if a thorough scoundrel and gambler, and would make her life a misery; they said

for me, why you know I've only taken a and admiration he felt for her. little spirit lately because I've been so an army list that she might see his name, something to say than anything else. but he came back without it; he had ordered it as they had not one in stock.

triumphs and pleasures. That very morning she had cut Sir Ralph. Lady Caro- who exclaimed joyfullyline had written her what she considered for her to know the nephew; besides Val, longer have to work so hard." for some estimable reason, wished her to so much of; he was one of the very elite, I now have?" hand in glove with all the swells. When she had closed with her own hand the and extravagant." gate that she had so hoped would some day admit her to the upper ten. Now the few she had known of that charmed lovely and fresh, and she is very sweet circle were lost to her, and for a time she and simple.' doubted if the county set to which was to be introduced would make up for this.

shadow; but before they reached home the captain had scattered all her fears. He had talked of his friends, the earl of this and the duke of that, and the countess of somebody else, till Mrs. Palmer felt the gate no longer closed; in fact it seemed pect of royalty in the distance ready to sorry." receive her with open arms.

Evely had no idea of the rudeness Sir Ralph had received at her mother's hands. hands; they saw but little of each other have loved you always-ever since I first on her broad brimmed hat and went for now; the house was never free from saw you, when you were a little girl with a walk with her new friend. Gordon's presence. So it came about the your hair down your back. Always, widow never spoke of Tempest; besides, Evelyn. You have been my ideal, my she imagined that her daughter, who had one love!" been just behind her, had seen; but

day, and week followed week, and Eve ly affection. despised herself because at every knock "Eve, dear, have you nothing to say?" all speed she ran to the spot, and lifted done so; that she no longer cared; that Nigel, I do not love you."

long a-doing He had hit on a charming horribly cold and hard." and the bride elect was busy engaging | the pain and disappointment he was en- able tell me where you live and I will |

men and maid servants; choosing furni- during; the quiet 'Then I am too late, ture and ordering her trousseau. Captain told nothing. Gordon was all that a lover should be; himself in everything; even her paltry

The wedding was to be a very quiet had done for herself.

she rather feared her future husband; now she knew it was over-ended, and and had it not been for what the world that the days which would follow would would say, she would have drawn back at indeed be dark and dreary. the last. Evelyn begged her to do so; in courage and firmness, could not bring

So the knot was tied, and Evelyn, with many misgivings, watched the couple drive away. All that was left her to do after the wedding was to finish packing couple of hours she had turned her back on the little house in which she had been very happy and very miserable. She told herself she had lived through the romance of life within its walls, and what a pitiful little romance it was to be sure! She smiled sadly as she thought of it, sitting alone in the fly, which was quickly bearing her away from all associated with it.

She found that Grey Friars was really a fine old place, though Captain and Mrs. Gordon had not furnished it with the best of taste; it was very grand and rather gaudy, and not at all home-like, and would be still less so when Captain Gordon reigned as master there. She dreaded the day that would bring him; she hated and down in a wonderful costume that the thought of being again in his presence; would have suited a young girl; a large and was determined that when her mother velvet hat covered with feathers was settled down and she saw her fairly perched high on the golden curls. In happy and comfortable she would leave. Six weeks went by, and there was no talk of her returning to England. The letters which came were few and far between,

telling nothing beyond the gaiety Mrs. It was a slow dreary life for Evelyn, till one bright morning things changed, and at last the stagnant monotony was urged. "I should be taking all and giving dispelled. She was busily engaged in making a sketch from one of the windows, when the servant brought her a visiting card. Evelyn's heart gave a great bound

he had found her out and had come to her at last, and then her dazed eyes read 'Mr. Carlyle,' and she dropped the card as if it had scorched her trembling fingers. She did not go down to the drawing-room composed, and had overcome the first sharp pang of disappointment; then with a smile of welcome for the old friend, she she sighed. went down to Carlyle, who was eagerly

"At length I have found you," he said she married him, as he was known to be gladly. "I had no idea you were leaving

"Had you not?" she said, seating herthat he was not in the service; all of self in a low chair before him, and where which letters she showed to the gentle- the early spring sunshine glinted on her "Gamble!" he had cried. "Why, Mab. fresh young beauty nearly dazzled the I never touch cards. That's rich! And man, causing him to lower his eyes for as to drinking more wine than is good fear they should tell too plainly the love ing at her with all his great passionate

"There have been a great many changes beastly seedy," and he rushed off to get since we last met," she went on more for "Yes, and for me as well as for you." he replied. "My ti ele has died and left The widow believed everything and me £500 a year; it is not much, but with gloried in anticipation of her coming what I can add to it-I think-" He

stopped, glancing nervously at Evelyn, "Oh! I am so glad; and what a relief it

"Yes, and they each have a legacy drop the acquaintance; it was not without | which will keep them in comfort, so I some misgivings that she stared him in have only myself to think of. Do you the face and passed on. He was thought think, Evelyn, I could marry upon what days time. They would telegraph the of disease is so fatal, unless its progress is

she struck his name off her list, she felt innocently. "Unless she is very grand the prospect of seeing her daughter again,

"I don't think she is," Carlyle said,

"Oh, Nigel! I am so glad you have found someone like that," she cried with She had an uncomfortable sensation of having dropped the substance for the deserve a good wife, and I know you will three days passed and no telegram came

"I would try to," he said in a low voice. "I would do my best, Evelyn, if you would only give yourself to me.'

"Myself to you!" she echoed, her face to stand wide open with the creme de la full meaning of his words. "What made creme all beckoning to her, and a pros- you think of such a thing? I am so

kneeling beside her and touching her

The earnest face all aglow with feeling, Evelyn had not, and for days she watched looked almost handsome. The deep voice ly, lost in her own thoughts, which were and waited and waited and watched for shook, ever so slightly, as he laid bare the cherished secret of his heart. Evelyn childish cry awoke her from her reverie. He had said he should call at the first was deeply touched; she understood the opportunity; but evidently the oppor- full value of what he offered, but she had

or ring her heart would beat quickly and he questioned, when she made no answer. the child in her arms, sat down in the the color would flush her pale cheeks. "Only what you ask me not to say," grass by the wayside, and carefully wiped She tried to put him out of her thoughts | she said regretfully. "I wish I could say | the dust and blood from the little one's -to tear him out of her heart. And otherwise-I wish I could care for you in face. The driver had quieted his horse sometimes she would think that she had this way. I respect and like you, but by then, and leaving him to the servant,

she had got over that first dull ache of "Might it not grow to that? I do felt the child's pulse; then, for the first indescribable agony. But the least thing not ask for much; there is nothing about time Evelyn perceived it was Sir Ralph would bring it back, despite her pride me to win a great affection from you, I Tempest. and will: a song he liked; the air of a know," he said humbly; "but you will A wave of color swept over her face waltz to which they had danced; any not be happy here I feel sure, and I would but she quickly forgot her own personal

Mrs. Palmer's wedding day drew near-shoulder. "But Nigel, I once did care still the girl thought he must be dead. er; it had been fixed for the first of for someone, very much indeed-it hap-March. Captain Gordon had not been pened some time ago, and I have got over tarily from her lips.

long a-wooing, and he did not want to be it, yes, quite over it—only it has left me country house in Leicestershire, and he There was silence for a second or two; and the widow went down to look at it. even she had no thought how her words knocked down but not trodden on; he She was enchanted; and the captain made | had cut him to the quick. Another had | has fainted from fright—see, he is coming speedy arrangements for renting and fur- won and cast aside what he would have round now." nishing. Everything was to be done on given half his life to possess—what he "Do not be afraid," she said in her an elaborate scale; they were going to had longed for and thought of for how sweet low voice, as two dazed eyes were keep a carriage and a couple of hunters; many years? Yet he made no sign of fixed blandly upon her. "When you are

He left soon after, saying he would call always most attentive; always filled with the next morning before he went back to admiration for his flancee; interesting town. And when he had gone, Evelyn thatched cottage was visible. sauntered into the grounds. The unex-£400 a year, the capital of which he in- pected interview had upset and grieved duced her to take out of the miserable her; she was restless and unhappy; even three per cents., and let him re-invest for the glorious sunshine, and bursting buds her. He could get her double the interest of trees and flowers did not raise her in safe stock, and called her solicitors spirits. She almost hated the glaring thieves for having done what they had light of day; a dull windy evening would have suited her mood better.

She bent her steps in the direction of a affair; Mrs. Palmer would have dearly pine wood, and followed the narrow loved more show, but as all her friends winding path until it brought her to a had refused to appear on the occasion, it rustic stile which led into the road. She was impossible to have a breakfast or any- had barely reached it when the cheery thing grand. The best she could do was notes of a horn sounded rich and clear to be married in an exceedingly hand- above the distant lowing of cattle and some travelling dress, and start on the bleating of sheep; the next instant a honeymoon immediately after the service. | coach and four tore by, leaving behind a No wedding presents arrived, no congratu- cloud of dust, which hung like smoke in angry with himself that it was solations, and Mrs. Palmer panted for the the still warm air. The horses had passed angry that he had neither forgotten nor time when she could show these narrow | Evelyn in a flash, but not before she had minded idiots what a mistake they had recognized the driver as Sir Ralph. He made, and what a very good thing she had not noticed her standing beneath the the bright June sunshine turning her shadow of the trees; but a pretty dark The young Palmers were packed off to eyed dark haired woman had glanced Cheltenham, and Evelyn went down to down at her from her seat on the box be-Grey Friars to await the return of the side him. Who was she-that woman bride and groom; she had begged hard to who was looking so supremely happy and be allowed to live at Cheltenham with contented? while she, Evelyn, had caught her brothers and sisters, for she felt it her breath in a scarcely audible but inwould be impossible to live under the tensely bitter sigh. She stood there long same roof with Captain Gordon; but her afterwards gazing down the road with mother would hear of no other arrange- dry aching eyes. Until that moment she ments. The truth was, that even then had all unconsciously hoped against hope;

The next morning Carlyle came to bid but poor little Mrs. Palmer, ever lacking her good-bye. It seemed to the girl that in all the wide world he was the one person who cared for her; and when he was leaving she felt that she was parting with her only friend.

"Good-bye, Evelyn. I shall miss my train if I stay longer," he said, clasping and drive to the station; so in less than a her hand; adding-"You must try and forget what I said yesterday."

"I do not wish to forget," she said wearily. "It is something to know I have at least been loved once in my life." The soft breeze flapped the window curtain to and fro; a peacock went screaming across the even green lawn, where a couple of gardners were working at the flower-beds; and the girl's eyes wandered restlessly away from the gaudy flowers and brilliant green turf to a dark belt of trees beyond and back again to Nigel's

"Evelyn, if you would only give me the right to love and protect you," he said huskily. "I did not mean to speak again; but you seem so lonely and miserable, and you shut yourself away from a love- But forgive me, I am paining

am," she said gently.

"Dearest, I love you so well, so desperately, I should be content if you only allowed me to love you, hoping that some | Or do you suffer from noises in the head. "No, no! it is too horribly selfish," she

"You would give me yourself, Evelyn." "And you really wish this?" she questioned, turning her deep blue eyes full upon him. "You would be contented?"

nothing."

"Then let it be so." He took her in his arms pressing her to his strong true heart; and she passively at once, but waited until she was more vielded, after awhile drawing herself

"It is a terrible bad bargain for you," "It is a better one than I ever really hoped to make," he told her. "I felt Staples & Co. your affection was purely friendly, but all the same I tried my luck. You have not

repented already, Eve?" "No-oh no!" she said hastily: "but do not think me unkind, if I send you away now-it is all so sudden. I should

"You will have a week to yourself," he said, not touching her again, but looklove written on his face. "I cannot come down till next week, and then it will be to stay for a few days; don't think I am going to utterly sicken you with my

He spoke lightly, but even then there was a touch of regret in his tones; and when he had gone, Evelyn felt she had pained him with her coldness, and wished she could have been more responsivecould have looked a little glad when he said he was coming again, and a little less

relieved when he bade her good-bye. That evening she received a letter from her mother saying she and her husband would be at Grey Friars in a couple of There was no expression of pleasure at is Cod Liver Oil made as palatable as no word of affection in the short hurriedly written note-the first Evelyn had reblushing furiously. "She always looks ceived in two weeks. For some time the house had been in readiness for Captain and Mrs. Gordon; the home coming had been deferred more than once, and Evelyn half hoped that such might be the case

Each day had brought a letter from Carlyle, kind cheering letters, purposely and in three days the corn can be resent her a box of books, and a queer-faced | Take only Putnam's Corn Extractor. growing as red as his as she realized the sharp-eyed little terrier that at once attached itself to its young mistress. On the fifth day the long looked for yellow missive came. They were in London at bowels and liver, tone the stomach and last and would be at Grey Friars by 6 p. purify the blood. m. Evelyn ordered the dinner for 6.30 "Don't say you are sorry. I and having seen that all was right, put

> It was close at hand at last that dreaded meeting with the cunning foxy-faced man who was her step-father, and whom she hated and mistrusted; she walked quickanything but pleasant, when a shrill She looked with a start in the direction whence the cry had come and saw a

> and a little figure lying in the road; with went up to the girl and kneeling down

small thing that brought him vividly before her would awaken the longing and
pain; and time alone could cure that.

do my best to make you so."

I know you would," she said, laying
her hand almost caressingly upon his

feelings in anxiety for the scrap of a boy
she was holding, a dirty ragged little
urchin, who lay with closed eyes, and so

"You have killed him," burst involun-"No-no, Miss Palmer, not so bad as that," Sir Ralph said hastily. "The little fellow ran right before the horse; he was

"Yonder," the boy said, still staring at her, but giving a slight backward jerk of

the head to where through the trees a "Then I will take you there at once." She raised him in her slender arms and prepared to rise, when Sir Ralph inter-

"I will carry him, Miss Palmer, he i too heavy for you," but the boy settled the question by struggling to his feet. "I can walk," he said, moving unsteadily away. Evelyn turned towards Sir

"I will see him home, he seems nearly right again now; there is no further need for you to stay." She looked him unflinchingly in the face, quite calm and self possessed. He was the embarrased one, his sunburt skin turning a deeper read-he was fiercely ceased to care for this girl, who looked more bewitchingly lovely than ever with hair to a ruddier gold, and showing the faultless fairness of her skin.

"As you are anxious for me to go, will do so at once," he said stiffly. "This young urchin made me forget for the moment that we are strangers." "It was your wish that we should be so," she returned with dignity. "I do not drop friends quite so easily, and somehow, Sir Ralph, we were really growing

to look upon you as a friend; I own it was

rather premature, for, after all, you were

but an acquaintance." She bowed slight-

ly, turning to walk with the child, but Sir Ralph followed her. "I think you forget, Miss Palmer that you and your mother cut me at Brighton.' "Oh, I did not intend fo cut you," she exclaimed, looking distressed, "and I am sure my mother never did such

"I can assure you that she did, and naturally after that I could not call. I am glad to hear I was mistaken with regard to you; I have puzzled over it many

"And I wondered why you did not ome and see us." They were walking side by side through a dark green meadow, where lazy cattle pricked up their long ears as they passed by; overhead the sky was serenely blue, 66.

and all around was the brilliant tender green of early summer. Sir Ralph, as he trod the short springy turf where buttercups and daisies showed their white and yellow heads, felt the many doubts and misgivings which had so perplexed and worried him vanish, and all at once he seemed to realize that a pear of great price had been within his grasp, and he, doubting its value, had let it go; but now surely he had another

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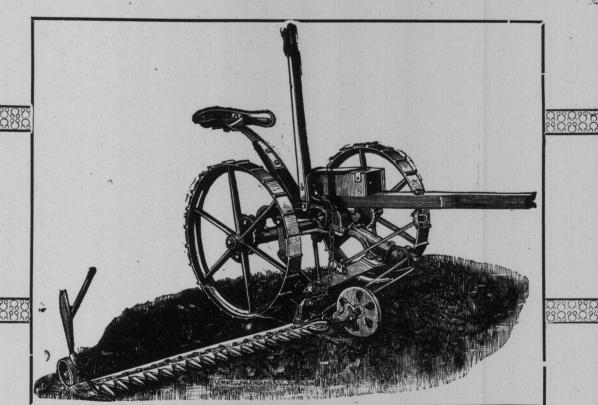
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