

killed the daughter." He could endure no more, he turned and left the room. Among the guests at the hotel were one or more doctors, who after being called, examined little Belle and decided that she was only in a swoon, and with proper care would soon return to consciousness again.

At one o'clock in the afternoon, a coffin arrived from Glen's Falls, and the body was soon prepared for the grave. While the clothing found on the body was being removed to give place to other and cleaner garments, a small pin was found on the shirt front, of peculiar shape. It was merely a plain triangular piece of gold plate, one side only being slightly carved.

On the front of this pin were some broken lines, but nothing, that any one who examined it could understand. The pin was handed to Colby who put it away in his pocket-book, hoping, he knew not what, might come from it in the future.

There were many Masons among the guests of the Lake House, and a Lodge in the town. The Master called the Lodge together, and after being satisfied by Newton and Colby that the deceased was a Brother, the Lodge took charge of the funeral arrangements.

At a late hour of the afternoon, the body of Lawrence Clark was laid in the grave prepared for it in the church yard of the little village by his Masonic Brethren, who paid to his remains the honors due to the good and the worthy.

The day following the funeral, a council was held in the parlor at the hotel, to decide what should be done with little Belle.

After some argument, it was decided that Colby was entitled to have the selection of the home of the poor orphan, which he quickly settled, by expressing his determination to take the little girl to his own home, and placing her in charge of his aged mother and a widowed, but childless sister. Some days elapsed before Belle was sufficiently restored to health to be able to leave her room, and when she did so, she seemed to have lost all her former cheerfulness. She wandered about from room to room, listlessly and with no apparent interest in any of her surroundings. This determined Colby to leave as soon as possible, in order to remove her as much as possible, from scenes that reminded her so forcibly of her great misfortune.

Preparations were soon completed, and one bright morning little Belle and her future protector bade adieu to their many friends at the hotel, and started on their homeward journey.

When Colby was about to enter the carriage that had been engaged to carry them to the railway station, Miss Sherill handed him a little box, which she said contained trinkets of various kinds belonging to Belle.

While riding along the small road, Colby tried to draw his companion from her mournful thoughts, and cause her in a measure to forget her sorrow. Among other means used to attract her attention, he asked her if she would show him what nice things were in the little box he had in his hand. She readily consented, and opening the box she laid in his hand a number of pieces of jewelry, each of which she said was a gift from poor dead papa.

There was nothing of much interest to Colby among the contents of the box, except a small breastpin, which Belle said papa had told her never to lose. Upon close examination of the pin, Colby found it to be almost the exact form and appearance of the one he had in his pocket, taken from the person of the dead Lawrence Clark. Colby could make nothing of the pins, any more than that they were peculiar in form and making, but he could not rid his mind of the thought that those pins would some time be of great use to Belle in some way, he knew not how. Returning all the jewelry to the box except the pin, Colby pinned it to the ribbon which the little girl wore about her neck, and told her to always wear it, whether at home or abroad, which she promised to do.

Belle was received by Colby's mother and sister with open arms, and a hearty welcome, and she soon grew to be the very life and joy of her new home.

I hasten over the history of the next fourteen years. Belle was now eighteen or nineteen years old. Her early womanhood had more than fulfilled the promises of her childhood, for in person she was the perfection of womanly beauty. Her education had been carefully attended to, and she was now an accomplished scholar in every respect.

Colby was still single, and a gentleman of leisure, being the possessor of an immense fortune. A great portion of his life had been spent in traveling in almost every part of the world. Belle had ever been an especial favorite of his, and he had often declared that she should inherit all his wealth. He, now that she had completed her studies, determined to take her with him on a voyage to Europe, his sister going along as company and guide for her. They accordingly sailed from New York in the month of November for Liverpool, and thence to London. They had a short and pleasant trip across the Atlantic, and within a week after their arrival in England, were pleasantly