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IN THE BRIGHT SPRING-TIME.

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clasped his unresisting Ethel in his arms, and imprinted the seal of their reconciliation upon her rosy lips. He ended their troubles with his kiss.

CHAPTER XIX.

IN THE BRIGHT SPRING-TIME.

The bright spring-time has come again, with the budding of green leaves, the springing of grass, covering the renewed landscapes that had lain dead under the white mantle of winter, with its soft, green carpet of summery life. The birds sang once more in the enlivened woods, and glorious Nature put on again her brightest change.

The white, cold winter had passed away, rapidly, joyously, let us hope, to all—as it had to Edwin Vance and his fair Ethel. A happy winter, that had brought no dreary storm to them, for they were once more all in all to each other.

On a bright May morning—the sun shining, the birds singing ; green nature all beautiful ; the blue sky arching over all its bright tintings ; the flowers springing ; the fair Canadian landscape alive with sound and light and beauty after the long, silent winter's sleep—Edwin Vance and Ethel Mordaunt stood together in the Church at Ten Lakes, where so oft they had worshipped side by side, to take upon themselves the solemn vows that should bind them irrevocably to one another, with no dread of further separation to harass, until Death should place between this his dread parting hand.

For better, for worse ; for richer, for poorer ; for this world, and—as we all hope—for the world to come. The words were said, the solemn vows paid, that made them one.

One for ever ; no more Edwin Vance, with his life ; no more Ethel Mordaunt, with her life ; but, one together.

One for this world ; one in thought, one in hope, one in everything.