care twopence. A picture was pleasing only for the face or scene it showed or the story it told. To such a woman her son's taste for pictures was nothing more than a mere childish craze that would pass away with his youth.
But as the time grew closer for a plunger into a new life, Hugh, shivering on the bank, shrank more and more from the profession for which he more from destined. A slumbering ambition was es more awoke in him to be an once more awoke in him to the disartist, and he tord bencil and brush.
carded pencil and orush. Sybil, one of those days, came sud-
denly upon him in his special attic in denly upon him in his special attic in Ashley Lodge as he was putcolour of finishing touches to a water cover they both knew and a the gi
tion.
tion. "Oh, Hugh, how perfect! What "Oh, Hugh, how perfect! would I give to be able to paint like would
that!"
She held out disconsolately a rough, unfinished sketch of her own which she had brought for his criticism and advice. For answer the boy looked at her sketch, then deliberately, without passion, tore his picture in, Sybil," "You will paint some day, Sybil," he said, "but I never can. I wil
touch pencil or brush again." touch pencil or brush again."
That night he sat long in his room, and for the first time the widow showed her whole heart to her boy, and he realized as never before the depth and strength of her love and worship for his father and the agony of the blow that parted," them. "You are his only son, Hugh," she said. He felt the timid entreaty in her voice. "I will do my best, mother," he promised, "I can never be like him; no one was like him, but I will try hard to follow in his footsteps."

## CHAPTER V.

## A New Life.

FOR four people the whole course of many years of life was changed when Hugh Limner and his mother left their home in Connemara. had been very close and strong, and had the bre

The two widows, first brought together by loneliness, loved each other like sisters. They were neither poor nor rich. After her husband's disappearance Mrs. Darley found five hunhad settled an annuty of hive humidred a year for her sife and from her ter. Mrs. Limner's income from has no husband's hard-earned savings was more than three hundred a year, but more than three hundred simple needs. With the match-making instinct that is in all women's hearts, they had
watched their children playing towatched their children playing to-
gether, and had seen their childish affection slowly ripen to love as the bud softly swells and opens to a full blown rose. From childhood Hugh and Sybil had kissed when they met or parted, but now their passion they had never known before. For the first time it made the boy's heart first hard and filled the girl with a delicious shame that flooded her cheeks with crimson.
cheeks with crimson.
There are turnings in the roadway of human life so sharp and strange of human almost lead to a new existthat they almost lead to a experiences ence amidy unfamiliar.
wholly unfamiliar. Limner's sudden Such was Hugh Limner's suden
change from the wild beauty of Connemara to the small house which his mother had rented in a quiet and somewhat secluded street in custom, let so strong is the the present thail so much more vivid the present thail the past, that in a week or so this life in Dublin seemed his only true life, and all that had gone before no more than a pleasant dream.
The entrance examination he nassed without trouble, and then there was a wait before the real work becan. The great Dublin doctor, Sir Dominick Curtain, who had been a student with Hugh's father, and had kept the friendship warmed lives, received them with the heartiness of an celd friend and freely promised help old friend and to the son.
and guidance to the son. "Your father was the best us all, my boy," he said, as the three sat to-
gether in his sanctum, while a fashionable crowd of patients waited impatiently in the outer room, "as a student he beat us into fits, as a doctor
he was well in front. I was brought he was well in front. down to meet him some years ago, you remember, Mrs. Limner? It was a felt myself a perfect sham. It He . rare disease. He had identified Ger symptoms from a description in a Ger man medical periodical. He taught himself German away in the wilder-ness-I don't know a word of to look
guage. Well, I did my best to guage. Well, I did my best to loo wise, I was made much of aur father hundred guineas. But your fathe cured the patient and taught me a lesson in my business that has been worth many a hundred to me since. If he had stayed in Dublin he would have earned a fortune and a the did earn a title," the widow "He did earn a title," the widow said quietly, "the only title he eve
wanted, "The Poor Man's Doctor." "Quite right," responded the rich "Quite right," responded the rich man's doctor with the complacent assurance that he had himself chosen the better part. "But you see the rich want some fellow to doctor them too, and that's about all I'm fit for'. Our young friend will have nearly a month to look about him before the work begins. I will be glad to show him round the hospital myself and introduce him to his professors."
So Hugh "looked round him," and in the sharp reality of city life the long lapse of days in the country faded into a dream of fairy-land, where Sybil was the fairy queen. The theatres tired him with their jargon of false sentiment and folly, and their shifting of gaudy colours hurt his eye as a false note hurts the ear of a musician.
His first great surprise and delight were Foley's statues. He had never seen a statue before except the gro tesque figures that serve for religious emblems in a country church. Tie stately figure of O'Connell was a new revelation to him, charming that subtle sixth sense in his artistic soul, and his delight was still warm when he came upon the glorious bronze triumvirate, Burke, Goldsmith, and Grattan, in College Green.
For full five minutes he stood a id gazed, a country boy unconscious of the passing throng that stared $a \cdot d$ the passing as they passed. His eyes wandered from one to the other of Foley's masterpieces where the artist had given a soul to the bronze. He could not tell which he admired the most, the grave and gracious statesman, revolving wise schemes of government; the gentle, pensive poct absorbed in his own sweet fancies; or the fiery patriot and orator, every nerve and muscle tense with the fervour of his passionate appeal.
For a little while he thought more forulpture than of painting. But on the memorable day, memorab?e the memorable later life on whici through all his later life on picture Gallery, his old love of pictures reGallery, his olus to be displaced.

$F^{\prime}$ULL of delight he gazed round the vast expanse of walls covered with pictures. For a little while his delight made him dizzy, he could only wander round aimlessly, seeing nothing in detail. This picture repelled him, that attracted him. A flambouyant, huge-limbed enus him like a false note in an orchestra, a softly shaded evening landscape
soothed his jarring nerves. Mastersoothed his jarring nerves. Master piece after masterpiece calle gallery, disfrom every part onting and enchantim, till of a sudden he came to a full stop before a beautiful picture.

No need for the catalogue to tell him the name of the master. Velas quez had painted it. The picture was unsigned, but to Hugh's discriminating eyes it was signed all over. It was not merely the wonderful concap tion and arrangement, the marvel ous skill of brightening tints and darkening shadows by which the col our was made to masquerade as ligit, by an intuition which is part of the free masonry of art, a blank mystery to the uninitiated, he found something of the soul of the painter in his picture and was more than ever con vinced that it was the same soul that ceived and the masterniece. painted t (To be continued.)

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