The Last of the Fairies.

The world, grown wiser in its day, Has vetoed many things: Among the rest, our fairy friends Have flown with swiftest wings; The little folks that peopled dells And meads and flowery nooks, The elves whose startling counterfeits Dwelt in our story books.

With what strange awe we looked abroad When Cynthia gave her light, To catch perchance one stolen peep At fairy feet by night; Examined many a lilly bell, And many a rose's cup, To find some sleeping elfin fay— Perchance to wake it up!

But children now are wiser born, Or wiser grow each hour; They even doubt old Santa Claus And disbelieve his power. And as for hunting fairy folks, Through dell and wooded vale, They rather analyze the flowers, Or read the last new tale.

Then fare thee well for evermore, Oh, tiny elfin band! Our little ones will ne'er like us, Believe in fairy land, They feast upon the actual, In stories sweetly told; While here and there are woven in Romantic threads of gold.

SELECT STORY.

Bought With a Price.

CONTINUED.

Chapter XV.

LILLY HEARS STRANGE TIDINGS.

OW do-ar-Thornhill? lisped

with it man. Here is Thornhill, ready health. Will you tell Neville that I can be pigeoned with the most delightful of a purer nature than that of her hus. So Betsy Cornish—or Mrs. Cornish, to be gorged with any amount of that never thank him enough for having rous- readiness. article. I was just trying to cater for ed me from my selfish egotism. Hencehim to the best of my abilities—telling forth I will try to be a true wife, and his new toy, 'la belle' Adela, this had of gratitude than did the squire—gratihim about the belles that have appeared better woman. My health is wonderful- even been easier than before, for 'la tude that such a blessing should fall to during his absence,

hill has not heard of la belle Estelle.

ilton's wife. Is it she you mean? La belle Estelle Treveleyan mentions is refrain from gambling for the future, I there was an understanding between her not to be compared to my peerless belle! rather think he has lost a good deal of and her late protector, the Hon. Her-The one he alludes to is wonderfully money, but this he will not own: and if bert. beautiful, but not to my taste. She is a it has cured him of the vice of gambling woman notorious for her love of wealth I shall not mind and admiration. So mercenary was she, that she sold herself for gold to one of the most vulgar, low-bred brutes it has ever been my lot to know! She was happiness. She wanted te make me be-But I must not forget that she is cousin be a tender loving husband. It made that henceforth he was a reformed charto 'la belle' Lilly, your friend's sweet me pity her so much, for I knew then little wife. Your pardon, however, Treveleyan, for interrupting you. Has la belle Estelle eloped with her very devot- must be. Had she married one like my

Well-aw-nao. Quite the reverse She and her parvenu husband have become two cooing turtle-doves, and-arhave retired to their country house. Their town residence is advertised to be

Just then there was a move in the crow, and the three acquaintances mov-

A listener, who had been hommed in behind, gave a sigh of relief as they

Lilly, my darling, I thought I should never find you. How did you contrive great change that had come to the squire. to become separated from Neville? came down from the house to meet you. and found him searching for you every-

It was when a rush was made, just as he had stepped forward to call up our

carriage. Here is Neville. Lilly was very silent during the ride

She was pondering the tidings she had overheard in the crush-room about Estelle. Could it be true? Were she and her husband become more friendly

Neville had remained some days longer a guest in Lilly's house than he in. tended.

It was the day after she had heard the conversation in the crush-room at the opera that Neville meant to depart. before leaving, he suddenly said, -Lilly, you hear, I think, occasionally,

from our cousin Estelle ? Do you mind letting me know, now and then, how she is getting on? I did not think her looktoo, she is not happy.

Then you have seen her, Neville! almost gasped Lilly, so utterly unexpected tween us, and thus remove the curse were these tidings. I am so glad you have spoken of her. I longed to tell you what I overheard last night when I sin. lost you, but did not like to mention her The tidings were beyond measure denly appeared at the Manor House.

name. MARINE FOR TANKE my dear Lilly! Poor girl, I am afraid Estelle. She was about to be absent time to get rooms ready for their recep- ling fever was upon him, greater than her mercenary marriage has been a fall from England for some time, and was tion.

tal error! But what did you hear of glad there was no further reason

That she and her kusband have sud. husband. House! It is almost impossible to be. ings which would await her return lieve it true. I cannot think that Es- home. telle would leave till quite the end of the season!

Neville was delighted to hear this. Then Estelle had taken his advicehad spoken to her husband, and induced him to shun the allurements of the gaming table.

Are they alone, do you know, Lilly? rents, aged 2 months.

Well, we will hope it is about to be squire. remedied. You will hear from Estelle, I daresay, before long.

Here is the post. Perhaps there may the bereaved father. be a letter from her. And Lilly's surmise was correct— cupation.

there was a letter from Estelle. In it she told her eousin that, a few to receive him? days ago, she had been taken seriously

her instant removal from town. and I have resolved to live more for each still. other. The Squire is now with me at the Manor House, where it is our in appeared to slip from his grasp. tention to remain, and devote ourselves a I own to you that the quiet of a country tantalizing. He is quite devoted to me and insists on pealed. Ar, well, it is to one of the belles my here a few days. The Ashtonians seem and generally formed one of their party. blessing. news relates. Re-ally, I suppose Thorn. quite delighted at our coming among unable to accept. We are quite alone, marvellous rapidity. Don't mention them together, Thorn, and the squire has solemnly promised to Not that the fair Adela really lost-

lieve that Lawrence would not always what her own experience of a husband acter. ed knight, the Hon. Herbert Montgom- noble Lawrence, she would never have given utterance to such sentiments. From time to time, Estelle continued

> to write to Lilly. The accounts respecting her husband were still as favourable as ever.

Her health was also restored, and she was happier than ever she had expected

Her husband had become interested in the duties of a country landed proprietor. In fact everything appeared to be quite 'couleur de rose.'

But at last came even yet greater tidings, and accounted to Lilly for the Estelle had given birth to a son.

Estelle wrote that her happiness was more than she could realize. The squire, too, was almost beside

himself with joy. He seemed never happy unless he was hovering about her and her child. There had been great rejoicing in Ash-

ton over the birth of the squire's heirit was an event which had caused universal happiness.

She also continued, -

My dear Lilly, you, who love your husband, can never know the wretchedness which has hitherto been my lot. I was Bought with a Price, which has proved Dead Sea fruit. Judge, then, how little I have deserved the happiness which is now mine. I almost tremble at the squire's intense love for the babe.

It has been such a bitter disappointment that this blessing has been so long delayed to him. You would hardly recognize him now, the birth of this child ing well last time I saw her. I am afraid appears to have transformed his very nature. I believe our babe will prove a blessing in being a bond of union be-

> my mercenary marriage. Lilly heartily rejoiced with her cou-

grateful to her.

to be anxious about her cousin and her

denly left London-gone to the Manor Little recked she of the strange tid- disappointment.

Chapter XVI.

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND. Y Jove! That's the best news I have heard for many a day, Albany:-On the 17 inst., at the Manor House,

to the great grief of his sorrowing pa-

I should think so, from what I heard. Nothing could have happened better, They seem to have gone together in the cried the toady and parasite, as the Hon. most amiable manner. I really am as- Herbert read this announcement from tonished, though rejoiced at the sudden the "Times." That child threatened change. I have been quite uneasy about to prove an obstacle to us not to be sur-Estelle. There was such rumours a- mounted. It would scarcely have suitbout her and her husband. I scarcely ed us for the squire to have given up to be improved. know why-but I am sure Mrs. Hamil play for domestic bliss. It really began ton tried to prevent my seeing much of to look ominous. I predict the squire her. I think it arose in a graet meas- will soon resume his old practices. It ure, from the manner in which she liv- was the birth of an heir, I suppose, ed-almost wholly estranged from her which so suddenly transformed him into a devoted husband and model country

> Albany, we must lose no time. I shall go to Ashton at once to comfort

And advise change of scene and oc-Just so. Have our friends prepared other.

The Honourable Herbert Montgomill, when her medical attendant desired ery was beyond measure delighted at the loss of this child.

You will be glad, dear Lilly, the let- It had been the occasion of bringing ter went on, to know that my husband all his well-planned schemes to a stand-

Both husband and wife had suddenly Everything had been going on so pros-

new comer, a moustachied exqui- life will be most welcome to me. I have Estelle had received his attentions site. Ar-thought you had disappear- long sickened of the turmoil and dissi- without displaying her former coldness, He made calls daily, to be able to talk

Nothing remarkable, Treveleyan. Out taking the most absurd care of my Her husband too, was consenting to

As the senora was almost always a them again, and have already showered loser, and as her dupe was required to ther, no harm could reach her her child such a one as that he threw me over af-Not I, Trevelyan, Dashwood has been invitations upon us-which, owing to pay her debts of houour, the plucking would be the talisman to shield her from ter all his fine promises! She don't in ecstacies over one-Lawrence Ham- my still delicate health, we have been of this pigeon had been going on with danger.

She was to filch as much as possible from her dupe, and afterwards receive Why Neville, this is marvellous. How the squire was considered to have beher share of the spoil. No wonder, then glad I am. Last time I saw Estelle, she haved with base ingratitude when it was was sarcastic and cynical on domestic found he had left London, given 'la belle' Adela her 'conge,' sold his town

> The Hon. Herbert could make nothing of it for a time. His spies in the household of the millionaire could only tell him that one night their master had returned home earlier than usual. Soon after his voice had echoed through the house in violent abuse of his wife.

Suddenly he appeared, with alarm depicted in his countenance. A doctor was sent for, and the senseless form of his wife carried to her chamber. The spies believed that the millionaire was in mortal fear lest, in his brutal violence, he had murdered her.

The doctor had had a private interorders had been issued for their leaving House.

But the Hon. Herbert was still puzzled. Perhaps, at first, her husband's fear taste, for he was not met with curses. of the result of his brutality may have Instead, he was urged to take up his had effect on him, but hardly sufficient abode with the squire for a time, to to account for the withdrawal from town, and the general reformation in his

This was fully accounted for, when The Hon. Herbert was quite aware of the intense desire the millionaire had always cherished for a son.

He knew, too, how much the disap pointment, heretofore of this hope had incensed him against his wife, and led him to drown his blighted hopes in haunts of vice and dissipation.

No wonder, then, his fears were great when this desire was accomplished, and an heir born!

Estelle, too, would be even more dif ficult to manage, Possess her he must and would! His love for her, or the lustful feeling

he called by that hallowed name, was greater than ever. The difficulty of its accomplishment only made him the more eager to suc-

ceed. Great had been the rejoicings at Asha every evening, and continued to a late ton when the squire and his wife sud. hour. Sometimes the squire was per-Their presence was so wholly unex- was the result. But in spite of his ill-

If the Ashtonians looked forward to the brilliant hospitality which succeeded | the establishment. Estelle's marriage, they were doomed to

tivities such as she had before gladdened nightly. the neighbourhood with.

ions for himself.

Such a dovoted husband! cried one. Ashton, the infant son of Squire Hodges, It is quite enchanting to see how loverlike he remains after two years of matrimonial life! echoed another.

> The squire also began to remedy many grievances among his tenants, and the poor began to think halcyon days were in store for them, so liberal was he

She had lost the 'hauteur' which had before so strongly characterized her, and, if she had lost much of her brilliancy, her beauty was considered to have ed by another. lost none of its charms. The Ashtonians began almost to think

they had been wrong in the estimation they had formed of her marriage. Could it be possible it had not been

wholly mercenary? It seemed so by the consideration which husband and wife showed for each

But the rejoicings reached their culminating point when the heir was born. Bells were rung, and the squire roasted an ox whol? for the tenantry, and broached many a barrel of ale for them.

Bonfires made the night preceding his

birth almost as light as day. The proud father, when he could tear himself away from his treasure, took care to be where he should be congratumore to the well-being of our tenantry. perously, that it was beyond measure lated. His fussy vanity was insatiable. He was inflated almost to bursting. His talk was of his boy and nothing else. ed from among us. Ar-Dashwood, pation of my former life. The change and he begun to be altogether necessary of his heir, till even the good natured my dear fellow, have you heard the in my husband is perfectly marvellous. to her—her confident to whom she ap- neighbours began to get tired of so much

> But what of Estelle? Her joy was aciated her. band; here was less of egotism mixed up as she was called, came to the Manor Since he had been so infatuated with with love for her infant. She felt more ly improved, though I have only been belle' Adela was also a great gambler, her lot, when she so little deserved a

Estelle felt that now she was a mo-

Then there had followed the christen-

ing feast, to which all Ashton was invit-

ed, and the heir was paraded before them to be admired and extolled above al other infants.

Two months of unalloyed happiness and then a crushing weight of anguish unspeakable. The heir was dead!

Estelle refused comfort. She shut herself away from sympathizing friends, and brooded over her sorrow. Nothing roused her--not even

husband's bitter maledictions on her head, for not having saved his boy's life. The squire was maddened as much with rage as sorrow. He visited upon suited for her purpose

weight of his blighted hopes. ed from the profane manner in which he tive to your duties.

They shuddered at the language in which he bewailed his lost heir. Their sympathy soon waxed faint, for now the Manor House was closed against them. The squire met his sympathizers with curses, and Estelle refused to be seen.

Whilst the squire was still smarting from his disappointment, the Hon Herview with him in the library, and then bert Montgomery appeared at the Manor

It must be supposed that his sympathy was more to the bereaved father's which he consented-of course wholly with a view of being a comforter to his friend. Then, in order to carry out his views to console the millionare, he rethe birth of an heir was announced. commended a few choice spirits from town to join them, among whom was his own particular consederate, Captain Al-

The good people of Ashton were at first inclined to make much of these titled visitors to their quiet country town, but soon they had good cause to shun

It became notorious that no modest Price of Subscription—THREE DOLLARSper irl could appear abroad in Ashton, annum, payable half-yearly. girl could appear abroad in Ashton, without being subjected to insults from these libertines. The Manor House now became a pandemonium for all kinds of vice. The squire and his guests gave Before, the squire had preserved a cer- manner calculated to afford the utmost tain amount of outward decency, but

Cards and dice were the amusements mitted to win, but oftener the contrary You need not fear to do so any more, She no longer felt uneasiness about pected, that the housekeeper had barely luck, he continued to play—the gamb-

Meanwhile, there had been changes in

The servants knew they had characters to lose. They saw that ruin was The neighbouring gentry were court- imminent if they remained. Even a eously received, but Estelle's delicate millionare's fortune could not stand the health forbade any participation in fes. losses which the squire sustained almost

Then what would bocome of them As for the squire, he won golden opin- no one would engage them, coming from such a house of vice as the Manor House was now. Therefore they, in a body, gave notice—the housekeeper and butler at their head. The valet alone remained -he was one recommended by the Hon. Herbert, and had no fear of failing to obtain a fresh place, should he need one.

Estelle hardly noticed these changes -she was wholly apathetic to all that was going on. She remained shut in Estelle, too, was generally considered her own suite of rooms, almost oblivious to the debauchery and vice which were rampant under the same roof.

She barely noticed that her usual attendant had left her, and was replac-

But this new attendant deserves some notice, she had come to the Manor House on receipt of a letter written by the squire, her former master, when he was owner of those cotton mills, which

had brought him so much gold. In those days, Betsy Cornish had been forewoman in one of these mills, and people had talked of the presents given her by the mill-owner.

She possessed a certain coarse beauty, rather of the gipsy type. It was known that she was not over scrupulous as to who might be her admirer, so long as she had the means of

buying jewellry and fine clothes, with which she decked herself for conquest. On the cotton-spinner's marriage, Betsy Cornish was heard to vow revenge. Then it came out that she had long been his mistress, and that she had hop-

ed to have been his wife. What, then, was her joy, when her old master wrote for her to come and take charge of his establishment, an office for which his wife's ill health incap-

A poor, puny thing, she muttered, the first time she saw her new mistress. She will not long be an obstacle in my way. The squire hates her, I can see, but not so much as I do. So it was for look as if she meant to trouble me long. I wish it was not a hanging matter, or I would give her a helping hand out of this world. She should soon go to the

child after whom she is pining. But Estelle could not remain long indifferent to her change of handmaids. Her hair was no longer handled with the deft dexterity of former days-if she rang her bell she was made to wait till her attendant felt inclined to answer it. This somewhat roused Estelle from her apathy, and one day she determined so

far to throw off her langour as to make an effort to walk into Ashton. It was a bright spring morning just

the unhappp head of his wife the full . Cornish, she said when her new attendant had chosen to answer her sum-His neighbours were at first all sym- mons, prepare me for walking in the vilpathy with his loss, but soon they recoil- lage, and for the future be more atten-

> ady airs with me. I shall come to you just when it suits me; and as for walking in the village, you will do no such thing. If you want a walk, you can take it in the grounds, but you will go no farther. Estelle could scarcely believe her ears. Could this low-bred bully be really

Heigho! so you think to come the fine

addressing her? I will see your master, she said, and have you dismissed.

The woman left her with a scornful laugh of triumph, and then Estelle began to think of many things she had scarcely seemed to notice.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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