mond street.

### S STREET

### Virgie's Inheritance.

It was a sad, heart-breaking story, and old with thrilling power and earnestness by the long-tired woman, who almost seemed to be enduring again the sufferings of her early life; and when at length it was concluded, she was nearly exhausted by the effort it had cost her.

Virgie had long since crept to her mother's side, and was now in tears, with her arms twined about her and her head resting on her bosom; while Rupert sat near with averted eyes and looking grave and deeply distressed.

Because, my darling, I could not bear to gadden your young life.' gadden your young life.' But I could sympathized with you, and then I need not have pained you by asking so many distressing questions." "It was better for me to bear my burden slone," her mother persisted; "of course I knew it would have to be told some time, but I have put it off as long as I could. Now, however, I must soon confront the man who has so wronged us, and demand man who has so wronged us, and demand justice and restitution for you, and so it has become necessary that you should know all this sad history."

become necessary that you amount this sad history."
"But, mamma, if he was married to that other woman there may be other children, and—and—"
Virgie could not go on, but broke down in

"True; there are—at least I know of one; but that fact cannot affect your claim or but that fact cannot affect your claim or deter me from demanding that you be recognized as the legitimate heir; for, of course, unless he made his second marriage legal, after the divorce was obtained, you alone have any lawful claim upon him," returned Mrs. Alexander, in a resolute tone, and with a look that denoted an inflexible purpose.

pose.
"But that will be dreadful," Virgie said, greatly troubled; "just think of the shame that such a proceeding would bring upon those who are innoent of the wrong; they are not to blame for the evil that my—that their father has done, and it does not seem right that they should be made to suffer, or be deprived of their inheritance; think of their poor mother and all her hopes for her children."

neir poor mother and all her hopes to the children."

"Does it count for nothing, Virgie, that five hopes were crushed; that I was abandoned when you were a helpless little one; that I was left to depend upon myself and provide for you?" cried her mother, sternly; though there was a note of keenest agony in her tones. Does it count for nothing that the happiness of my whole life has been wrecked; that I was repudiated, scorned, mocked; that you have never been acknowledged by your own name, never allowed to occupy your true position in life?"

attended the reception and ball given by Lord and Lady Dunforth.

Lady Dunforth had herself been a beautiful American girl—Brownie Douglas by name—and she was always eager to entertain her countrywoman when they visited Lenden.

ful American girl—Brownie Douglas by name—and she was always eager to entertain her countrywoman when they visited London.

She had met Virgie at the Huntingtons, and had at once been attracted toward her, and had taken pains to secure her presence on her next evening at home, arranging for extra attractions for her sake.

Mrs. Alexander was feeling unusually well on this night, and had taken a great deal of pains with her own and her daughter's toilet.

Virgie's costume was exquisite, consisting of pale-blue satin, with an overdress of misty lace, wrought with tiny crystals, and draped with clusters of blush roses, while she wore strings of rare pearls on her neck and arms and in her hair.

Mrs. Alexander wore simple black, but of richest material and finest texture, while her laces were exceptionally rare and her diamonds of the purest water.

She was a strikingly beautiful woman. Her form was finely developed, and yet it had lost nothing of the graceful outline of her maidenhood. Her face possessed a peculiar delicacy of beauty, and her complexion was as faultless as of old. She had gained much in ease and self-possession; her bearing was regal, her manner charming.

Dady Dunforth was even more delighted with her than she had been with Virgie, and took especial pains to present her to her most honored guests.

It happened that Lady Linton and Lillian were also present that evening.

Both were accomplished society women, and were much sought after, because of their tact and brilliancy, for there was never any lack of life, there was never any stiffness or awkwardness where they were. Lady Linton could entertain charmingly, and Lillian was always the center of a brilliant circ'e.

At Lady Dunforth was presenting Mrs. Alexander to some of her guests, she suldenly came face to face with Sir William Heath's sister.

'Ah? Lady Linton," said her hostess, in in her genial way, "I have a friend here to whom I would like to introduce you; Mrs. Alexander—Lady Linton."

Her ladyship gave one glance into the beautiful fa

(To be Continued.)

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#### FARMERS IN POLITICS.

(Montreal Star.)

The people are not all dead yet who think that the farmer should keep out of polities. This mistaken notion is pretty well beaten down in our times, but ever and anon some voice is raised to want the farmer back to his plow and away from the wasteful sport of the political gambling-house. The St. Thomas Times, for instance, in speaking of the recent meeting of the Central Farmera. Institute of Ontario, sagely remarks: "If this organization would confine its attention to the promotion of agricultural improvement, and would let politics alone, its usefulness would be greatly enhanced." There seems to be a fantastic impression in some minds that politics is a thing apart from the business life of a man—a sort of expensive game that only the well-to-do or the paid professionals can afford to play at. This idea lurks in the sentence quoted above where "politics" is set over against "agricultural improvement;" as the writer might have held up novel-reading in contrast with the study of agricultural science. No notion could be more absolutely wrong-headed or mischievous. Politics, in so far as it has any legitimate—vistence at all, is wholly concerned with the well-being of the people of the country. Professional partisans have succeeded to a shameful extent in manipulating the political issues of the day as they would gaming implements; but that is a base and disloyal perversion of politics, and the farmers and every other class should be encouraged to make it impossible. Indeed, so vitally and necessarily are political issues linked with the material progress of the people, that the party gamesters in their play cannot move so much as a pawn, without affecting the bread and butter of some section of the community. We do not, of course, mean to imply that all politics as are men, moved by no lofter moral motive than is the idle chess-player, conspicuous in the political arean; and that they play a selfish game with the greatest interests of the nation. This, however, is neither all politics nor true

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Captured by a Danseuse. New York, Feb. 26.—There is a well-founded rumor here that Miss Loie Fuller, the Illinois girl, famous for her serpentine dance, is to be married in April to a wealthy Philadelphian, who offers to pay \$40,000, the amount of forfeit demanded for the breach of a three years' engagement made in Paris on Oct. 5 last. The authority for this is said to be a private letter received by a friend from Miss Fuller herself.

Wife-Oh, George, the water pipe is leak ing and the water is spoiling the new hall carpet. Go and get a plumber, quick. Husband—That's all right, my dear; let it go; it's cheaper to get a new carpet.

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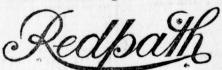
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