

Love's Link.

By AGNES LEE. A sad procession sought the church at noon of day. A weeping girl along the windless summer way Followed the slow-borne bier where mutes her lover lay.

GRAPES AND THORNS.

By M. A. T., AUTHOR OF "THE HOUSE OF YORK," "A WINGED WORD," ETC.

CHAPTER VIII.

SUMMER FRIENDS.

F. Chevrouse did not allow himself a long indulgence in his own sorrows. Before half an hour had elapsed, he was stepping through the portal of the city jail, all private grief set aside and lost sight of in the errand that had brought him.

"You seem to think me innocent of this charge?" he remarked calmly. F. Chevrouse was silent with astonishment. "You probably do think so," Mr. Schoninger went on, in the same tone. "But whatever your opinion may be, you do not know. Crimes are committed from various motives and under various circumstances. Some are almost accidental. Neither is crime committed by the low and rude alone, nor by the bad alone. There is nothing in the character or circumstances of any man which would render it impossible that he should ever be guilty of a crime. I repeat, then, that you cannot be sure of my innocence; and, till it is proved, there can be no intercourse between us. I am willing to give you credit for a charitable impulse; but I do not want charity. I want justice." His eyes flashed out, and his face began to redden again.

Honora's eyes were again eagerly searching the priest's face, but Mrs. Gerald was in turn looking away from him. "And why was he right, madam?" demanded F. Chevrouse. She did not look up to answer, and her expression was of that stubborn reserve which some good people assume when they cannot say anything friendly, and are determined not to be uncharitable. "I may be wrong," she said, carefully choosing her words, "but it does not seem to me that you are the person of whom he should take advice now. Pardon me, F. Chevrouse! I do not mean to criticize you nor dictate to you, of course. But I am glad that you are to have nothing to do with this. You should be spared the path."

F. O'Donovan shrugged his shoulders. He had been a good deal in France, and had, moreover, as all graceful and vivacious persons have, a natural inclination to use a good deal of gesture. "Rheumatism, my friend, is not invincible. Yesterday I was helpless; this morning at seven o'clock I was to see you; and here I am—sound, too. It was only to say, Get thee behind me, Satan! and I could walk as well as you. From which I conclude that my rheumatism, if it had existence outside my own imagination, was Satan in disguise."

country parish, that he might have leisure to complete a literary work for which city life and the demands of a host of admirers were too distracting. He had followed F. Chevrouse from his own house to the prison, and from the prison to Mrs. Gerald's, and he understood perfectly what he would wish to do and where he had been disappointed. Honora had, indeed, told him, half weeping, of the request she had refused, and had proposed to make him the bearer of her retraction.

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Lawrence along country, and crime. Mr. Gerald he sympathy; but retrace her face. "My dear H decision, "I ca my son, no ma how friendless imagine him charge of robbery too great a ribb just. But that pitying Mr. Sch Mrs. Gerald such asperity, never given pe in him. The faults, she glad which it was nantly aside. Honora percei ings and the h had made to be the reply. It stood better t might be the p tions are enga has not her en she loved Mr. moment fancie only that he h excite her ima of love. "Fortunate thoughtful pr Crichon are to