A TALE

LADY GEORGINA FULLERTON, Author of "Lady Bird," "Ellen Middleton," &c

CHAPTER XI.—Continued.

Ginevre's earnestness overpowered her and she remained silent till Mr. Warren

again addressed her.
"Heaven forbid that I should strive to persuade you to act against your conscience! I admit that if your convictions are unalterable, you cannot of course give them up; but in that case it is much be regretted that you ever entered into an engagement beset with so many in-superable difficulties! Such a foolish opeless affair!" he repeated, with that sort of impatience which good-natured and matter-of-fact persons experience at that appears to them the needless sufferings which others entail upon them-selves by giving way to their feelings; but he was touched by the mournful eloquence of Ginevra's eyes, which were raised to his with a kind of mute appeal from the sentence he had just pronounce ed. Again he suggested, and again she rejected the only alternative which presented, itself to his mind; and at last, provoked with himself and with her, and Wearied with the discussion, he exclaimed abruptly, "Well then, keep your faith and give up my nephew. You must

choose between—"
"God and man," she solemnly replied.
"Than you for those words; they have given me strenght. Now let us return home. You said you could not help me and you were right."

"You have a great sacrifice to make," replied Mr. Warren; "but young as you are; and with a long life before you—" "Yes, a long life—perhaps as long as his," she added in a low voice.
"You will feel satisfied at having rel-

eased him from painful position. As the cause, through the innocent cause, of his ruin, you never bould have been happy. Once more she glanced at the smoot river at her feet, and then at the blue vault of heaven over her head.

"Now you will both start afresh in life;
you will have nothing with which to re-**Pr**oach each other.' No, we must nof reprooch each other; Ginevra mechanically repeated; and they walked on in silence, except that Mr. Warren now and then made an observation tending to enforce the necessity of the sacrifice he nad urged her to make When they were within a few steps of the house, she suddenly stopped, and said, in a low deep voice, "Are you sure that you have told me the truth? There was such intense misery in the tone with which this was uttered, that Mr. Warren started, and felt chocked at having been the means of inflicting it, but he could not retract, and the tear that glistened in his eye gave a death-blow to her hopes. He felt then for her, but saw no means of escape. She pressed his hand, went up to her room, and was alone for an hour, looking her fate in the face, and struggling against despair. It was true, as she had said it herself, that Gin:vra Leslie was very young for the loae of care, for the heavy burden which weighed on her rpirit, and taxed the energies of a character which nature had ardent, and to which education and circums ances had taught self-control. Full of that indomitable fire which genius kindles and and passion durses, she had taken life and its mys teries, and its realities, as if by storm and at thirteen she had ceased to think to speak, or to feel as a child. The strung religious principles which grew her growth, and modeled her \* s'e being, grappled with that nature curbed its impetuosity. Her imagination, her talents her enthusiasm, had been directed to one end by the influence a riligion, which, while it is ascetic in its discipline, and uncompromising in morality, deals with each human being according to his secret needs, and purifies while it exalts every aspiration of his soul. She had seen in the gor geous temples of her own land the riches of earth, the precious marbles and the sparkling gems, the gold of the mine, and the pearl of the ocean, lavished in profusion on the shrines of the Almighty; and she had learned, at the same time that the precious things of man's hear and of man's brain, its pearls of great price, its treasures of deep thought, its gems of countless value, should be laid apon the altar of God, not to be destroyed, like the holocausts of old, but to be

hallowed and exalted by the light of the sanctuary. Every inspiration that raised her soul from earth was directed to

heaven; each burst of enthusiasm was

Ranctified by a sacrifice; the consciousness of superior power was incitement to new exertions : and the revelations of

her from despair. Her story was a strang one, and must now be briefly told. Consinfined in her infancy to the care of her motoer's relations, she had been brought up in an old mansion, whose departed grandeur had left traces of its existence in the fresco paintings which ttill lingered on its walls, and in the mutilated statues, the traces of the evenue of the broken tountains, and the avenue of cypresses which ornamented its gardens One suite of apartments in this abode was occupied ba Father Francesbo, who was at once the friend and the chaplain of the owner of that old palace. His hame has already been mentioned in this story as the uncle and the guardian of Ginevra Ferrari, the mother of our heroine. The simple furniture of these nooms contrasted with the magnificence of the gilded ceilings and the painted One small gallery, that led from the hall to the chapel, was well stored with books, French, Latrn, and Italian.
Writing-desk that stood by one of the high windows, and a pile of heavy folio volumes that lay at its side, gave indicaion that their owner had not neglected to improve by study the abilities with which Nature had encowed him. The chapel was rich in comparision with the lest of the building; and the relics of past splendor, which elsewhere had been suffered ta deday, were carefully cherished, and seemed to render a silant transfer and seemed tr tent homage to the sanctity of the spot, where night and day a lamp burned beight on the carved affigies and the On the opposite side of the building another lamp often burned through the long hours of night, and still faintly glimmered when the glory of the rising on overpowered its feeble rays. This

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(To be continued.)



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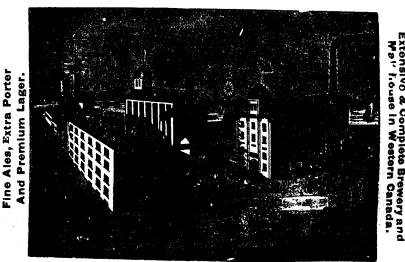
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