A Sketch of the Religious Society of Little Gidding. A TALE OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

> BY MRS. LUNDY. CHAPTER III.

(Continued from the First Page.) The usual demeanour of Nicholas was so grave and placid, that no eye save one detected a more than common depression; but what can escape the watchful mother? and Mrs. Ferrar felt assured that Nicholas had addressed his cousin on their late journey and been unsuccessful: she was sorry to see him unhappy, yet delighted at the issue of the affair, for she had enough of worldly wisdom to know that the brilliant talents of her son would soon place him amongst the great ones of the land, and in that event he would be the most zealous members of the community prac- usual, more devoted to mental study, and more wedded | pressed on my mind as long as I live.' and if there was a being whom Isabella regarded with I have been!" she mentally exclaimed; "Oh that I rescue thee." heart-felt affection, after her worthy uncle, it was her could free myself from this wretched state of self- Alice gained her room in a state of mind better cousin Nicholas; yet she saw his evident admiration abasement and self-blame, and, consequently, mental imagined than descirbed; she had found that one, who of Alice without a spark of jealousy; she loved them both, and she often prayed in secret that, should they will assume courage to reveal all my sorrows to my and corrupt: she had been degraded in the eyes of ever be united, they might be happy, though in her uncle; he will not cast the prodigal child from him for two beings whose esteem and good opinion was a

concordance or harmony went on; it was to be a fac- down and wrote to her lover "that she had determined family. "I shall be despised by them" said she, but simile of the one which his majesty had been so much to hold no further correspondence with him clandes- I deserve it, henceforward I shall live under a dark struck with on his visit to Little Gidding; it was a tinely, and till he would clear up the mystery in which cloud, but I will submit cheerfully;" saying which BOOT AND SHOEMAKER. mechanical arrangement of his own, to which Mr. they were involved she should be wretched; and in she prayed for help to that Being who can alone sus-Ferrar had devoted one hour every day for a year, and the meantime she should inform her uncle of their tain us, till her spirits were more calm and composed in which he had been assisted by his aged mother, engagement." This letter she had ready to give the than they had been some months. The next morning who took great delight in the work. The various page when next they should meet; and the very day she gave her uncle the history of her acquaintance parables, miracles, &c., were cut into separate slips, after, and before Alice had an opportunity of speaking with Villiers without any concealment; he listened and arranged in a connected form; this done, they to her uncle, a beggar accosted her during a solitary with pity to her self-condemnations, and kindly were pasted down on sheets of paper, and so nicely walk, whom she recognized as the messenger of Vilwas it prepared, that it had the appearance of being printed purposely, so exquisitely were the pieces united "No answer required, my master is not far hence," so exquisitely were the pieces united "No answer required, my master is not far hence," so exquisitely were the pieces united "No answer required, my master is not far hence," and pressed. The title of this book was "The actions, and before Alice could deliver her own letter to him some selfish motive, would induce them to conceal doctrines, and other passages touching our blessed he had disappeared. Alice sought her own room, and their correspondence from their parents or guardians, Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as they are related by read the letter of Villiers: it appeared he was on his "depend upon it," said he, "they have some sinister the four Evangelists, rendered into one complete body way from the north to London, and though time was view; they are as snakes in the grass, which silently of history, wherein that which is severally related by precious, he had struck out of the high road, and was steal along the path, till near enough to pounce upon them is expressed in their own words, by way of comparison, &c." In each page throughout the book pic- made the most solemn protestations of love and devo- which had come to his knowledge when he mixed with tures were inserted, representing the facts themselves, tion, and urged her, if she had any regard for his hapor their types and figures; the book was divided into piness, to meet him at twelve that night, in a copse one hundred and forty heads: the new edition for the bordering on the churchyard, when he hoped to induce king was superintended by Mr. Ferrar, who daily in- her to accompany him to London, where they could spected the progress of his nieces' progress and in- be immediately united; and his reason for this request Majesty and the Queen are without reproach—is one dustry. A large room was set apart for the purpose was that the Duke of Buckingham had urged him to where no woman of strict virtue would wish to be of forming the "Harmonies," where books, stationary, hasten his return, having a matrimonial speculation in seen; and I still more grieve to see a laxity of morals knives, scizzors, a large table and a rollling press were at hand to forward the work; and the specimens of "This," he went on to say, "is a worldly proceeding I their book-binding were so exquisite that many per. could never consent to embark in, even were my heart those beneath them; we may truly use the words of sons would scarcely believe they were done by the free; and my only way to avoid offending my patron the Royal Psalmist, 'corrupt are they, and become delicate hands of the young ladies, who plied their by a refusal, will be by declaring myself the husband abominable in their wickedness. I much fear me task so well that it was finished in a few months, to of Alice Weston; and when he shall have seen the the younger Villiers is treading in the same steps with the satisfaction of their uncle. It was splendidly wife of my choice, one who is fit to shine in courts his dissipated relative—that way which leads to perbound in a new fashion, and forwarded to Archbishop and associate with nobles, then will be forgive my want dition, unless the grace of God enters into them ere Laud, who presented it to the king, and his majesty of confidence, and take us both to his favour." was so pleased with the neat execution of the various liers urged all that lovers usually urge, and concluded escaped what might have been a sad fate, and your embellishments, that he exclaimed to his Grace of Can- by earnest entreaties that she would not fail to meet gratitude to Him should be ever remember terbury, "It is a present fit for the greatest king upon him at the hour of twelve. earth, what think you, my lord? Shall I obtain a second favour of these good people? I have another Alice on perusal of this letter, for though guilty of suit to them: I often read the lives of the kings of imprudence she may not have the survey of the kings and Chronicles; led into temptation by her own vanity, and by the inthe latter were a supplement to the former, and I find sinuating address of one who well knew how to bend some difficulty in reconciling them together. I would the inexperienced to his wishes; she had deeply redesire the good people to make me such a book as would pented of the past, and now her eyes were opened to bring these two books into one perfect and whole his- the baseness of that man who could tempt her farther tory, and yet so that I may read each apart: they from her duties, who would have her steal away like a will understand my mind. Will you let them know thief in the night from those worthy guardians who my pleasure?" Intimation being sent to Mr. Ferrar, had cherished her as their own. "No," she exclaimed,

portion of each day upon its completion.

We will now return to Alice, who had not been I will act as the niece and protege of Nicholas Ferrar many days at Bourne before her uncle's eldest son ought to act; I will not disgrace him more than I have came from London on a short visit to his family: young | done; better is his favour than that of a wretch like the Collet was an officer in the king's body-guard, and of Duke of Buckingham. I would not now be related to course much about the court. He was much struck him for worlds. Oh Villiers, how little you know the with the beauty of Alice Weston, whom he had not heart of Alice Weston; you have drawn forth its worst seen since her childhood; and on his return to Lon- passions, you shall now now see its better part," saying don, he boasted of the charms of his fair cousin to which she fell on her knees and prayed for strength to some of his brother officers, among whom was Villiers, follow out her good resolutions. There was no person who soon discovered that the Bourne beauty was no in the family whom she could confide in so as to furother than the object of all his thoughts since his first ther the resolve she had formed, which was to meet visit to Little Gidding. He kept his own counsel. Villiers with a letter explanatory of her present feelhaving too many reasons to forbid his making a con- ings, and give a decided refusal to any further corresfident of Collet, but he, with great address, so won pondence with him, and take leave of him forever. the young man's regard as to induce the latter to ask | The hours passed slowly on, and Alice was in a him to spend a day or two at Bourne the next time state of perturbation most pitiable, at the thought of leave of absence could be obtained; this was not diffi- what she was about to undertake. The evening ducult when Villiers petitioned, and the two cavaliers ties being over, Mr. Ferrar dismissed the family, and set off for Bourne, and arrived unexpectedly at Mr. Alice retired to her 100m to count the moments till Collet's, where Alice was formally introduced to Mr. midnight, when she wrapped herself in a large cloak Villiers; and they met as strangers to each other, till and hood, and stole down the great stair-case, and opportunity enabled them to talk of the past without having opened the hall door, she left the house withany of the family suspecting they had met before; and out having caused a single sound to alarm those who so well did Villiers, by his courtly manners and insinu- might be keeping watch in their apartments: with ating address, win upon the credulous Alice, that trembling limbs Alice crossed the lawn, the moon before he left Bourne she had confessed a regard for shining bright, and entered the church-yard, where, him which she could not conceal. Villiers and Collet on advancing to a large yew-tree, a figure came forth were hastily summoned to London for the purpose of from beneath its branches which she knew to be Viljoining troops to the north, where tumults were rising liers. daily and difficult to quell; and after their departure Alice reviewed her own conduct and that of her lover; lover, as he advanced and took her hand, "I have with neither was she satisfied: she had given a pro- been here a whole half hour, which seemed to me an mise to Villiers that she would not divulge their cor- eternity: but we have no time to lose; my faithful respondence till such time as he could gain the con- page and fleet horses await us in the road, and"-she sent of his relative and guardian, the Duke of Buck. had withdrawn her hand from his during this speech ingham, which he craftily persuaded her would not be and quickly answered, "Think not, Mr. Villiers, I difficult to obtain; and she had remarked more than came here to meet you on your own terms; think not once during his visit that his attentions were never I am inclined further to swerve from my duty to my very marked before any of the family. So little idea God and my excellent guardian. I have known nohad Capt. Collet of any partiality on the part of Vil- thing but misery since I was first tempted from the liers towards his cousin, that he made an avowal of path of duty, and I come now to deliver this letter, his love for her, which Alice met by a decided refusal. which will explain to you why we must meet no more." He complained to Villiers of her coldness, who urged "By heavens!" said Villiers, "I will not be duped him to persevere, telling him that time would probably by a prating girl, though she be a saint; and if you induce her to change her mind! Alas! Alice, the don't go with me with your own free will, why you unsuspecting Alice, knew not the heart of the man on shall go without it," saying which he seized upon the whom she had fixed her affections; she knew not that affrighted Alice to carry her off, when she uttered a he was a second Villiers in disposition and immorality, loud and piercing scream, which in a moment brought as well as in name; she knew not that amongst his two figures forth from the church, and she saw at a boon companions the account of his visit to Little glance they were her uncle and Nicholas. Gidding afforded a fund of amusement, and their unu- "Save me from this man!" she exclaimed. "Unsual mode of life, and peculiar religious ceremonies hand your victim," said Mr. Ferrar in a stern tone; served for a subject of mirth and ridicule; had she and Villiers, seeing two to one, laid Alice upon the known this, she would have abhorred him, she would grass, who was now insensible, and rushed into the at once have cast him from her thoughts. wood, where he had left his horses, and the sound of

During the rest of her visit at Bourne, Alice had their receding steps were heard by Mr. Ferrar and his occasional letters from Villiers, through the means of nephew, who now lifted Alice into the church porch, a page, who, sometimes in the disguise of a wandering and with water from the font, which in those days was minstrel, sometimes as a beggar or itinerant pedlar, always in readiness, they in a short time restored her met her in her walks or rides: these letters breathed to animation: during her faint they reflected with sureternal love and fidelity, and with a trembling hand prise on this most extraordinary meeting with a mem-Alice replied to them; she did not scruple to tell ber of their own house under circumstances so suspitheir present position should known to peace till a follower of their own house under circumstances so suspitheir present position should known to peace till a follower of their own house under circumstances so suspitious; to see one so young, of whom they both had
their present position should be known to her worthy
friends at home. But Alice had embarked in a bad
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the best present position shoul sause, and she was now stemming the torrent without within the holy precincts of the church, was beyond their

guide or compass; she was fully conscious of her comprehension; and when Alice opened her eyes and faults, but she had not courage to stop; she was act- saw them bending over her with looks of wonder and ing deceitfully to her guardian, to the friends of her pity, she threw herself on her knees before them and youth; and for the sake of a man whose character begged forgiveness. was unknown to her. She knew no happiness, her

"Kneel not to me, Alice Weston," said Mr. Ferrar, days were tortured with suspense and the fear of a "I am but thy earthly judge; kneel to your heavenly discovery, and her nights were sleepless; she had de- father if thou hast departed from the paths of virtue; parted from the right path, and how could she retrace | seek his forgiveness first, and I then will hear thee."

her steps? She had no one at hand to confide in, and Alice cast her eyes upwards, and breathed a few the state of her mind was evidently destroying her words, then rose from her knees, and stood before her health; she had also another cause for uneasiness, for uncle: "As I hope for pardon from above, so do I Villiers had been engaged in several severe skirmishes hope for yours, my dear uncle: think not the worst in the north, where in many parts the king's troops of your erring niece till you shall have heard my conhad been routed, and considerable loss sustained .- | fession; this letter," for she still grasped the one she Mrs. Collet also was anxious for her son, and the ru- had tendered to Villiers, "will explain my intentions mours of a civil war being at hand cast a gloom over in thus meeting a stranger at such an hour and in the little circle: she longed to be at Little Gidding such a place. Spare me till you have read it, and if once more, yet she dreaded the meeting with the you can forgive, -to-morrow I will freely confess to friends whom she had deceived. The term of her you, and to all my friends, how little I have lately a fit match for a noble lady, instead of a portionless visit at length concluded, and Mr. Collet conveyed merited their esteem. I exculpate not myself; I orphan; she had felt great security hitherto in the her home: her altered looks and evident depression have been but too much to blame; the pomps and easy indifference with which Alice had treated her of spirits excited the sympathy of the friendly circle; vanities of this world have ever had too great a hold son, and she now rejoiced that they were for a while but as she evaded all enquiries and made no complaint, on my heart! but, thank God! the lessons I have divided. But soon she had a new subject for annoy- so their notice of it ceased. Alice, on her part, been taught since I became an inmate of your house ance, for, since his return from Bourne, Nicholas more grieved to perceive the change that had taken place in have come to my aid. I have looked into my heart WATCH MAKER AND MANUFACTURING JEWELLER, than ever devoted himself to the fasts and vigils which her cousin Nicholas: he was paler and thinner than in time, and the remembrance of my folly will be im-

tised: she feared, and not without reason, that they to solitude. Often did Alice observe the tearful eyes There was so much earnestness in this speech, and would be too much for his delicate frame; yet she of his mother fixed upon his face with a painful ex- so much apparent innocency in the beautiful countehad seen his uncle practise the same austerities for pression, and, to add to all her disquietude, Alice nance of Alice, that Mr. Ferrar held out his hand to many years, and his health had not failed. Well feared that his regard for herself had been deeper her, and said, "Fear not, God forbid I should conmight Alice say her cousin Isabella and Nicholas rooted than she had ever contemplated. When she demn you unheard; but let us hasten to the house, I would have been kindred spirits, and truly they were turned to her amiable cousin Isabella, and marked the should wish you to regain your own apartment both as near perfection as frail finite mortals can be: even tenor of her useful life, she felt the contrast to unnoticed, I will see you there myself, after which I alike in a holy zeal, secompanied by a daily practice herself; she looked as if the stormy trials of the world will return to render thanks to God, for thy deliverof the Christian virtues; alike in that high-minded- had no power to hurt her; she was walking in that ance from much peril. It was the vigil of All Saints, ness which would sacrifice self to the good of others; path which would lead to heaven; "And such might or thy cousin and myself had not been at hand to

heart she felt they were not quite suited to each other. ever; I must be reinstated in his favour, or I shall treasure to her, and she had pledged herself to make While Alice was at Bourne, the daily task of the die of grief:" and in this excited mood Alice sat a free and full confession of her folly to the whole pomps had been the ruin of many a young person, soul and body; "and," continued he, "I grieve to say it, but the court of King Charles, -although his pervading all ranks. The examples from high places are generally followed, and have great influence on Vilit be too late. You, Alice, by His grace have

> "A long life of prayer and praise," said Alice, "would not be sufficient to shew my thankfulness; and my first pennance shall be to make a public. my aunt and cousins of the past, though they will despise me, I will endeavour to bear it.

Tears of indignation streamed down the face of

shall suffer, deeply suffer by a separation from him,

"A thousand thanks, most lovely Alice," said her

"This proceeding, Alice," said her uncle, "is unnecessary, I admire your humility, but I see no good end it will answer; it will only give the young people of the household a subject for gossip and petty scandal; let their minds be undisturbed by such thoughts and conversation, and let thy secret remain with Nicholas and myself; with him it is safe, he and his assistants busily set to work, and spent a "I am not the creature he takes me for, though I I know his sentiments towards thee, and I wish they could have been mutual, but it was not to be, and he has learnt to subdue all earthly feelings, even young as he is."

(To be continued.)

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Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in want of Specimen Trees and Nurserymen commencing business, in

A New Descriptive Catalogue, containing directions for successful transplanting, has lately been published, and is furnished gratis to all post-paid applicants.

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