

ral thing that the invalid should unburden her heart and tell her sad story to the kind sympathetic listener whose own eyes were dimmed by tears during its recital.

Married very young to a man only a year older than herself, a good, honest, upright fellow, but more given to idle day-dreaming than practical work under whose careless mismanagement she saw her fortune gradually lessen and disappear yet found in the love of her children the courage and strength necessary to face all the difficulties of her trying position. Two out of her three



children died shortly after each other and Alice the eldest and best loved was her only comfort left. Soon however a double blow fell upon poor Alice ; her father died suddenly and her mother was stricken with blindness on the day she made her first communion. This child of twelve undauntedly faced the dark future thus unexpectedly thrust upon her. Bidding adieu to devoted teachers and loving companions, she returned to her post of self-sacrifice and courageously endeavored to straighten out her father's business affairs in the hope of realizing sufficient means to support herself and mother. Unfortunately she did not succeed, and so great was their poverty that they