

Literature.

THE UNFINISHED PICTURE

The adoration of saints, and the miracle attributed to pictures and statues, prior to the Reformation, led to the ruthless destruction of most works of art, either in painting, sculpture, or stained glass, with which the churches of England were adorned, when the spirit of the people had been roused by the discovery of the gross frauds which had been practiced upon them.

William Elford was a young man and an artist, though he followed the trade of silversmith. Every spare moment he devoted to his art, and the walls of his little studio were covered with pictures of saints many of them displaying great talent. It was in fact a rooming that young Elford worked at his beloved painting. His studio was a small attic, and the door was always kept locked, night and day; and often as William sat in his little shop and saw Donning and his agents go by, he trembled for his treasures, more than able than all the gold and silver in his shop. Dame Elford and one other were the only persons ever admitted to the little attic room. That other was a young girl betrothed to William, the beautiful Annie Wilson. Often she sat beside her lover as he painted at his easel, and shared his pride, and longed for the time to come when all persecution should cease, and William acquire the fame he deserved.

One day William repaired to his studio. He had nothing particular on hand, and rejoiced in his heart to be able to devote to his art as he pleased. He had scarcely seated himself before the door opened, and a customer called, and without thinking he ran down stairs with the palette on his thumb. Arriving in his shop, he laid the palette carefully down, and stood behind the counter to receive the order for a heavy silver chain. The customer departed, and young Elford hastened up stairs; arrived there he missed his palette, and was about to return to seek it, when the tramp of feet alarmed him, he laid the palette carefully down, and stood behind the counter to receive the order for a heavy silver chain. The customer departed, and young Elford hastened up stairs; arrived there he missed his palette, and was about to return to seek it, when the tramp of feet alarmed him, he laid the palette carefully down, and stood behind the counter to receive the order for a heavy silver chain.

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