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TWO

UNITED KINGDOM BY MRS. INNES-BROWNE

CHAPTER XXII.

That night a long and stormy interview took place between the after all your grand doings in town." Countess and her eldest son. Since I feel much nearer to my dear father own,' I cried 'the dearest part of my here. He hated town life and loved portion. It is not fair to claim him, her husband's death the Countess de Woodville's power of will had greatly the country, and I can think more of developed ; she had also grasped the ing to his wishes. I can also think her face with her hands. reins of government with a much of dear Percy, and wonder how he is I struggled and fought to persuade tighter and steadier hand ; so that getting along, instead of being bored myself that Heaven was unjust, to death by that everlasting dressing and was dealing too hardly by when the young Earl made known to her the wishes of Beatrice as ex. and undressing in order to rush me, feeling all the while that from one entertainment to another, my heart was growing cold, hard, and pressed to him that afternoon, her ladyship was farious, and refused at first to listen to either reason and being forced to talk about people stony. and things in whom one does not take the remotest interest. I tell you, Marie," and a strong twig was or argument.

Why, the season is but half over !" she exclaimed, in a loud and angry voice, "and she would leave in the very midst of it. The fact of the matter is, Reginald," she continued, tossing her head angrily, and waving

her hands, "she has been so com pletely spoiled by her poor father and Percy that she does not know what she wants. Her health, indeed i that is but an idle and foolish to run into such heavy debt, that we What disgraceful treatment were obliged to let this dear old excuse. of the De Mowbrays, refusing to attend their ball after the pressing Why, invitations we have had ! only yesterday I saw the Dowager talking as affectionately to the girl as though she were already her own grandmother. It would serve tion, he one day escorted us all back in triumph. We have not very many little minx quite right if De Mowbray cut her, and bestowed some of his attentions elsewhere. The small value she appears to set upon mistrees as she did for you, and when I saw how she pined for your them ! and he by far the best match of the season ! I have no patience with her.'

Then speaking diplomatically, said the Earl, "perhaps your best living at the lodge it would have plan would be to allow her to go, on been all the same to me. What I the chance and possibility that craved for was quiet and rest, and a absence may make the heart grow sweet spot like this, far away from sweet spot like this, far away from tormoil and strife, where I could think-ay, Marie, think." nder. Try it, mother." "Go and visit Marie Blake! To fonder.

be candid, I was dreadfully disappointed with that foolish child. Once I thought that you admired and felt attracted by her extraordin. ary simplicity and pretty girlish changed, so altered in your thoughts You see she was but another difficult to realise it is you who specimen of a girl not knowing when she was well off, for, as far as I speaks. can ascertain, she will not have can ascertain, she will not have be finace or the merry and expressive a penny piece of her own wherewith grimace or the merry and expressive to blass herself, and yet I cannot but nod pointed in her direction by the to bless herself, and yet I cannot but believe that she has been endowed saucy with one grain of ordinary commonsense she might once have done well for herself-a stupid little thing !" for herself-a stupid little thing !

know I am changed. The death of We were not discussing Miss my father, the parting with Percy, Blake's merits nor those of her were trials which caused me suffer-ing almost overwhelming in its purse !" retorted the young Earl, in an indignant and angry tone. 'Neither do I see what right any intensity, coming as it did upon a heart so ill prepared for it as was one has to condemn her. Each of us has a perfect right to think and act as he or she judges for the best; save God and my own soul. and I for one will not question her conduct, nor will listen to its being discussed by others.'

Surprised and altogether disconcerted by the unexpected anger expressed in her son's tone and haughty or cross his wishes too acutely just upbraid and yet to comfort me and manner, and not wishing to yex. t present, the Countess felt obliged to change her tactics ; she therefore ungraciously and reluctantly yielded a tardy consent, that, for the sake of allowed a week or tan days' leave of secret force bids me remember you health. Beatrice should be absence. But providence and cir-cumstances aided the girl's wishes, expression which I once saw in your for within the very next week a cannot forget you."

small-pox broke out in some of faithful prayers have been heard and answered, my little guiding star. he very best parts of the Metropolis, and amongst the first to quit town was the Countess da Woodville

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

gay spirits and witty humor have menced to settle in my own mind for them, for I know now that He my own happiness, I long now for He was no mean athlete either, and the portion that might be His, and that which I must and would retain. But, Marie, Marie dear, why these namely, my father, my brother tears?" Oh, the stillness, the peace of this sweet spot, Marie,!" she exclaims. "You can never realise the beauty of it until you have spont a few months

Yet, in spite of all-ob, how

and entreated me to be resigned;

covered with shame when I realise

Percy's affections I could scarcely

and, forgetting all things, even me

but I would not listen.

disgust.

depth of

Marie ! I am

Irish girl had heaved as though bursting with suppressed emotion ; meeting poor father ; for I saw and but, fearful of interruping her com-But you used to crave for a long knew at once, with a ghasily cer panion, tears had been forced back from the dark grey eyes until at-last tainty, that the hand of death was upon him, and yet I dared to raise she could control them no longer, little will in direct opposition, and they fell unheeded, whilst she and it so lonely and uninteresting and hoped against hope to frustrate ter all your grand doinge in town." and ciccumvent the --to me unjust---"Lonely? Oh, far from that dear! decrees of Heaven. 'He is my very answered

"Dearest Bertie, from my heart I never envied you before, but it Beatrice drew from her pocket, and is hard not to do so no w. Yet today with a strange wild hope in her you have taught me two lessons and he shall not die;' and so I him and try to mould my life accord- struggled on," said the girl, covering firstly, what a religious vocation really means; and secondly, how "Oh ! how to be generous, and make a sacrfice. By the former I see plainly now that it is as erroneous to try and force

one's self into a vocation as it is to neglect it when forced upon ug. Like you, darling Bertle, I will also try to be generous, and thank God that He has chosen the fairest and the best amongst us to be His own; and I will try to be proud to feel that He has passed me over for you. 'Hush, dear, you must not speak

you, Marie," and a strong twig was flung energetically into the stream, "such a hollow, aimless life would kill me in six months." are happy here; all the same, I am turn.' But I closed my mind and like that. Remember you were very thankful that we have returned ears, and would not listen. Each always His, and can well save your It is so nice to hear you say you unspeakable shall be yours in re soul in the world; whilst I, on the to the hall once more. You know day that form grew visibly weaker, my grandfather and uncle managed each day my task grew harder, for I contrary, require to be kept in subjection, and closely surrounded saw, or thought I saw, but Heaven's by every aid and help to plety. injustice in it all. Alas, poor lather

What will you do then, Bertie ?" place to strangers, and to live at that he read my heart, and knew bu fanny, rambling little lodge for too well the wilful rebellious spiri years. But good old Mr. Barry has there. He besought, he implored 'Wait patiently until I am of aga, which will be very shortly, and then

nake known to my mother my intention of entering a convent." She will oppose you dreadfully. So I expect, but I cannot help it.

how much was needed to bend a " I do feel so excited, Bertie. Will proud heart like mine. Then dear you go to dear old St. Benedict's ?" Inther sought to indulge my yearn. Oh, no; the life there would be

ing desire for gaiety, life, and amuse-ment ; but I turned from that with far too sweet and easy for me. must go where I shall probably meet How could I be gay when with more active work and outward he was dying ? and especially with humiliation. I must shower upon that everlasting cry at my heart -to the poor, the lonely, and the neglectgive and yield the three things I loved most on earth? It was a ed, the devotion, love, and care I would once have bestowed so freely constant torture to me, especially as I had a natural craving for ease and upon the world." O Bertie, Bertie, how beautiful !

loxury, and all that was bright and "Far from it, dear," laughed her friend; "I expect to look anything eautiful. Even in thought, dearest Marie, I cannot linger over that but beautiful. Religious habits to time now, but truly there is no my mind, are seldom very becoming. sorrow or misery to be compared to Now," she continued, that caused by the knowledge that with a sly glance at the excited little face bethrough your own fault you are glance at the excited little ise be-at ennity with God. Gradually, and fore her, "the babit of St. Benedict would suit you to perfection, that I remember of old." as is by stealth, I learned that another of my treasures was sliding

Don't, don't," implored poor rie. "I believe you guess quite from my grasp for ever-that in Marie. well that I shall never wear it. But ever expect to stand even as second, I also have fought my little battles, for Heaven called him to devote his but have found that it is, after all, heart and life to the cause of God, better to yield my own will and con form to what I seem to feel is right." he awaited but his father's death to

"Undoubtedly it is. Then where obey. Then suddenly, as if in anger at my long and protracted refusal to yield, the flat went forth fore keep others hoping and fighting, Marie, when one signal from your little hand, one word from your lips, that my father must leave me withwould decide the battle at once, and out one last tander look or word restore them instant and lasting of farewell, for I was receiving countbliss and peace ?" less flatteries, and was the centre of

' How wildly you talk !" exclaimed attraction at a brilliant ball, when Marie, averting her face, in the vain the true and gentle spirit of my father went forth to meet its God. endeavor to hide the quick flush that endeavor to blde the quite her to dyed her cheek and caused her to "How Oh! the hitter and usaless regrate feel so very uncomfortable. that then filled and tore my heart seunder! How earnest'y I yearned can I possibly fathom your mean-

for the chance to assure that dear ing?" it necessary that I should one that now, at least, "Is it necessary that I should then?" departed one that now, at least, I would endeavor to acquiesce patiexplain myself more clearly, then ently to the stern decrees of Heaven. or are you such a little hypoprite that you pretend wilfally to-misun-But he was gone, and I was almost Come, dear, I have alone, for Percy even was leaving derstand me ? been very candid with you ; can you ma. Then it was that I gave way not treat me with a similar confito hopeless and desponding grief. The weaker and more frail I grew, dence by telling me why you have the louder and more pathetic grew relinquished your idea of becoming a 'My child nun that still-faithful voice : 'My child give to Me thy poor wounded heart,

" That is just it," she replied, with and I will heal it.' I was almost a perplexed and troubled look. overcome by weariness and exhaus would be a nun it I could, but every numbered." And you shall see how your faithful prayers have been heard and answered, my little guiding star. I will reveal to you a secret that

was as redolent of lavender, and the Ten Commandments as were Emily Corish and her niece. "What a number of diverse worlds For a long time the breast of the come, sit down once more beside me, and listen to something which I will there are on the globe," he com read to you from a letter I received muned with himselt as he strolled

this morning." along the path over the bay. Ah The elder girl dropped upon her well, now that he was here, he would ivy-grown seat with a softer grace than she had risen from it, her heart be as those around him were-re-poseful, self abnegating (limited by eating in a wild, uncontrollable mapner, for she recognized the hand tonight as he watched the round moon rise slowly over the bay. Miss writing on the envelope Corish had confided to him that she could no longer, in these days of war, heart, waited to hear if aught in that letter related to her.

Bertie perused the first few lines herself, and then read elowly alond a little of what followed

" It was very kind of you, dear, to write me such an interesting letter about yourself and dear little Marie. If you have the opportunity to do so say a good word in my behalf. Tell her how faithfully I have endeav. ored to live up to the standard she pointed out for me ; how the thought of her has made me a better and a gentler man. Tell her, dear Bertie, anything good that with truth you can say, and discover from her if go and bring you home. Re may mind ber that suspense is often very hard to endure ; therefore let your answer be as speedy as possible. With much love, your affectionate brother, DE WOODVILLE." brother,

nace, passed, an argent flame, into Then followed a pause. Marie's infinity. He turned homeward. The brace let would be his wife's. He had finally decided to buy land in Rosna went out in pity for the tears she gree and to settle down there. Nell saw that strong man shed. Almost O'Carroll would be his wife. a voice was blown on the air to bim. to comfort and console him, which It was Nell's. quickened his pace. Her aunt and the were out for a moonlit ramble he thought; then, turning a bend of seemed now to be part of her life, the road, he saw two figures a few paces off. A girl and a man-Frank owning it even to herself.

Quinn Frank may, perhaps, have hopes than he, Geoffrey, had sur mised, but, then, that was absurd of Frank if he had-nonsensical. A prompted by spite ?. fellow with an income the size of

Franks' and a half naked chap, too, to think of marriage with Nell O'Carroll, Idiot ! warmly. "And some day I may tell Geoffrey Kerlin was amused, and

brother," she whispered shyly, the gate. He overtook Nell in the short avenue and, as it was not too late, accompanied her home. half . ashamed, half . frightened at what she had done, Marie bounded was very entertaining that night, and away over the fallen trunks and watched delightedly Nell's face glow young green sprouts, and was rapidly and her eyes sparkle as he talked. What a grievously conceited ass lost to view. Frank was! Well, he, Gaoff, was

sorry if he should suffer, but then after all, he was asking for it when he might have seen that Geoff had intended to marry her. Geoff let his feelings of amused contempt permeate his politely worded remarks. Before Kerlin left that night Miss

Corish and her niece saw Frank in another light than the old rose-tinted eyes, a light switched on by or

amidst her il

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afford to own costly jawelry, and had asked his advice as to the private disposal of a diamond bracelet. He had seen it, and had purchased it himself for a sum that had made her by turns tremulous and doubtful as to whether

mmon-sense, of course.) He was feeling very complacent

Though in her youth it had cost

A ripple of waves ran chatteringly

He paused, for the silvery ring of

He smiled unconsciously and

he was not making a sacrifice for her, and doubtful as to the propriety of accepting it much less than Geoffrey had given her, he knew that now it was worth double the sum which he had paid her. But he was glad he was able to do a kindness to an old friend-to be generous and yet prudent. upon the beach, throwing up a glin mering line of foam. And a murky cloudlet sailing across the sky wa caught in the silver meshes of the moon, and transmuted to her fur

thoughts flew to the scene in the little chapel at Baron Court that New Year's Eve, when her heart

every word he uttered was indelibly fixed in her memory ; and the desire had almost overpowered her then had grown and increased rapidly since that hour, until it almost her duty, and yet she shrank from

Well," inquired Bertie, and there was a ring of injured sorrow in her tone, "do you still think that my former inquiries and allusions were

"No, my dearest and best of friends, I do not," exclaimed Marie, rising and kissing her companion

you more. Only at present this is your chuckled as he stood in the shadow 'that and waited until they had parted at all I may or can say. Tell your he may come to take you home ; but, oh! don't say that I said so ;" and,

A pretty nun you would make, my little Marie !' soliloquised her friend, as she watched with amuse. ment the active form of her old com-

canion disappear in the thicket. Why, an arrow from Cupid's bow can rouse to life more animation and spirit within you than I ever deemed you possessed of. Poor old Regie !

she cried in delight "your fidelity shall be rewarded; you have but to come and claim your bride, and I shall write this very hour and tell you so. Just to think that it was and revealed crannies and cobwebs from sly little Madge's letter I first in his character to their surprised received an intimation of the true state of affairs. From whence whom could she have learnt all this kind. I wonder? Dear, dear old Madge, Tha

my next duty will be to look to your happiness and welfare. Try as you will to hide your poor humble head, will discover your whereabouts. and it possible your days of silent "I and patient endurance shall be better.

TO BE CONTINUED

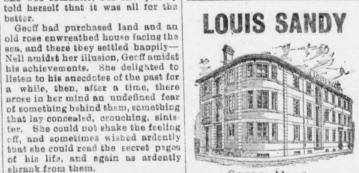
He

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one-in a clear electric light, one that dispelled fogs from the mind a dev terous hand without a hitch of any

That was the beginning, and in a fortnight Frank was routed. A few days later, Geoff and Nell were affianced. Her aunt sighed a little. She was romantic, but the quickly



returned more fully than ever.

in the height of a London season."

kill me in six months."

cleared that debt off now, and, to

auntie's great delight and satisfac-

servants, but quite enough for us;

'Yes; she never cared for any

society I wrote and asked you to

take her. But, Marie, had you been

and ideas, that sometimes it is quite

She did not observe the comical

saucy face above, otherwise she might have divined that the discov-

mine.

should go."

Besides, I had a secret,

Dav

to

hidden trial, unknown to any one

and night it gnawed at my heart and

conscience ; nay, it tormented me so at times that I fail to know what

would have become of me had not

old, a saint and prophet both, to

put me into the way in which I

I have pitied and prayed for you. Almost every time I kneel some

and ever and anon that agonized

dear face flits before my eyes and I

" O Bertie! you do not know how

God in His mercy sent, as He did of

and Norah ssems very happy here."

life of galety and excitament, Bertie;

in fact, I trembled when you pro posed visiting us, fearing you would my

Thus a few weeks later we discover seated in the sunniest and yet most secluded nook of Bracken Park, two of the oldest school friends, enjoying one of those strictly confidential and important tete.a.tetes so sweet and comforting to the girlish heart.

In a natural and picturesque seat. formed in the fork of a low and very ancient pollard oak, was perched while on the ivy-grown Beatrice ; trunk of a fallen tree reclined Marie. her back comfortably supported by a low branch of the old oak itself. At their feet flowed the little stream, its bright waters sparkling and shin ing in the sunlight; sometimes frothing and foaming with a merry sound, as though mingling its mirth and spirits with the rippling laugh-ter above ; ever and anon lingering and straying behind some big boulder or sheltered rock, as though to catch more distinctly the thrilling heart-secrets which were being whispered by the lips of beauty above.

There is a visible alteration in begin !" Maria's exterior since last we saw

improvement, perhaps, we should have termed it; for this is at al, dear, if it costs you pain. Why where it lay. The "Little Lady of should you humble yourself before should have termed it ; for this is the Hall," as she is frequently me? Believe me, if you knew all, it called now, has acquired a sweet is far more fitting that the contes-little dignity all her own and the sion should emanate from me, I have new feeling of self reliance has not so much to acknowledge that lowers destroyed one tota the gentle beauty me in my own eyse."

destroyed one lota the genuit obsauty in a lin h, no ! you have nothing to be tastetul, nay, almost elegant in its a hamed of. My promise of long simple yet stylish make; the re-fractory curls still fall naturally about her brow and neck; but the Marie. You at least will understand dark hair is so dressed and kept me, and it will relieve my mind to and height to the little rounded form.

1 .

from the very moment I last rose from my knees at Lady Abbess's feet Beatrice, from her rather high but undignified perch, looks the very personification of beauty and conthe struggle commenced. Incessant ly her words rang in my ears : 'Gad has given you much, my child ; He will demand much in return.' Yes, tent ; the old look of worry and discontent has left her face for ever. her mind and heart are full of from that very moment I seemed to the noble and high souled purposes realise that He would; and with for which she was created, and her selfish indifference to His will I com-

long ago you asked me to unfold to

long ago you asked me to unfold to rememoered voice. To infant teesing the happen if it wars not for you and I could not --would not; but to move, I listened at first as one in things to happen if it wars not for the best." the best." the best." "What things, Maris?" this must I speak of myself and my shortcomicgs," she said, springing lightly from her seat amongst the branches and dropping on the ground at Marie's feet. "Now, dear, you must liston. Whilst I hids my poor diminished head against your knee, let me pour into your kind ear the tale of my inconstancy and pride." She settled herself in an easy attitude upon the mossy ground, her arm resting upon her companion's knee, her head erect, and in her eyes the far-away look of old.

There was silence for a moment ; even the shy linnet above hushed its little song as though to listen ; the waters lingered and rippled more gently over their atony bed, whilst humble shame overspread, but lit up with a singular beauty, the young girl's face as she exclaimed, " O Marie! I scarcely know where to

Spare yourself, and do not begin sweet and easy.

"Do you wonder now," cried Bertie, her eyes raised and filled with ago binds me to reveal the inmost a holy enthusiasm—"do you think that now I could be satisfied with workings of my heart to you, dea and height to the little rounded remember. Yes, now I recollect that but the poverty and rags of the poor.

In my glittering jewels shine their sorrowful eyes and tears, whilst in the ewestest strains of music I detect but the plaintive cry of their

remembered voice. Too ill and teeble He would never allow all these WEALTH'S IMPOTENCE

and a power stronger than myself "Well, no one whom I have ever forced me to obey. I arose and listened. Down upon my poor parched heart, like the very dew from heaven, fell his burning and coulstiring mode, fell his burning and soul-stirring worde, telling of the so much for me to do in the world, deep love and patience of God, and pating in true and vivid colors have come to the conclusion that my the baseness, pride, and infidelity great desire to become a nun rested of my own conduct. Every word far more in my intense longing to stung me with bitter shame and return to the dear old Convent and remorse, for he showed me what friends of my childhood, than in any I now was and what I might have been. O Marie!" cried the girl, wringing her hands, "may you never know the remorse and sorrow I then felt. Yet listen: from that same sorrow arose such a sweet and neared."" The devotion and constancy of

even he was infected. "The devotion and constancy of sorrow arose such a sweet and peaceful joy-a joy so deep and real that it the storner sex, Marie ? -of course my soul with happiness you are not. You would be a little the baimy preeze scarce stirred the instant my sour with happiness you are not. Idd would be a little leafy branches. A soft flush of so great that I would not exchapge it wretch if you were; and in justice for any earthly joy. But what could to them I shall consider it my duty I offer in return? Truly I had to publish your altered sentiments to nothing left to give but my poor all the deserving heroes whom I self, the only remaining object I had know." nes sought to claim. With the

"You will do no such thing," whole force and strength of my replied Marie, rising hastily, her face somehow crooked, and this not alto-nature, then, I becought my God aflame with injured pride and shame; gether because of many big deals in to accept the gift, and to keep it whilst a blackbird on a branch close as His, His only, for ever. No by filled its little throat and piped its sooner was my little sacrifice made joy in lond, clear, and exultant notes, joy in loud, clear, and exultant notes, to the chiselling of his manbood. than I felt it was accepted, and as it enjoying thoroughly the little all that formerly appeared so bard maiden's confusion. You will not and difficult to me seems now quite breathe a word of what I have spoken to you, Bertie. You would not, you could not disgrace me so !"

"Why, Marie," said the mischie vous girl, stifling hereelt with laugh-I never saw you so exasper the empty joys and pleasures of this ated before ; surely we have changed world ? Why, hidden in the folds natures. Sit down and calm your pungent with the spices of southern natures. Sit down and calm your self. Such undue excitement ill becomes your dear little face." wood, carnations, lavender and roses A blue bay gleamed beyond the cot-Then promise that you will not

be so spiteful Spiteful, Marie !" and there was a look of reproach in Barbie's beauti-ful eyes. "Indeed it is not spite that has induced me to question you

listen to his anecdotes of the past for a while, then, after a time, there proce in her mind an undefined fear Into a nest of peace he dropped

after twenty years of wandsring. He of something bahind them, something had not come unsullied. No, but, that lay concealed, crouching, siniswhilet befo e his voyaging he had ter. She could not shake the feeling been like unhawn block of stone, now off, and sometimes wished ardently Time and Tide had chiselled and that she could read the secret pages beaten the shapeless mass into a man of his life, and again as ardently taut and alert. He knew he was shrank from them.

Amongst the people, Geoff was equipped for any antagonist, however keen, who might try conclusions very popular for a while. Then he with him. It was unlikely that he began to be regarded with suspicion. would meet such a one here in this He had a habit of " besting " them in place of rest. Innocence looked from everything, whether in business the eyes of its inhabitants. Selfess-ness was the key-note of their live?, inatters, he only allowed the old and repose so breathed upon it that Canon to be nominal head, and he never sold a horse that the buyer did

At first, Geoffrey Kerlin was con- not find himself sold, too; he never scious of a new sensation-that of bought one that the seller did not go unworthiness. He felt-to his sur- bome in a more thoughtful mood prise - that he was unfit, because of than that in which he had set out. those things in the past not to be resurfacted, even though they had is the way of crises. The American much to do in the carving of his company in which he had invested manhood. He felt, in spite of him- the great part of his fortune ceased self, that he was somehow tainted, to pay. He was at breakfast when he read that last report, and his face was not good to look at. When Nell the past so much as because of the spoke, his raply was an oath. Then, innumerable little things that went with more oathe, he told her his innumerable little things that went news, but her horror at his manner of taking it was greater than her He had come back to Rosnagree on a holiday, with a half formed inten-tion of buying land there and of shock at the loss he had sustained. They sat with white faces, he darkly settling down. His own family were scowling and brooding. He had con tracted a few debts, which were then either dead or had drifted away, but a distant relative, Emily Corish, still inconsiderable, but now meant mort lived there with her nisce, in a gage on his house and land, or their Oh, he should devise a means cottage sunk in a sunny garden, the rendezvous of many beets, sweet, of getting free, and he did, for it was

then the gambling began ! Geoffrey was a skilled gamester and, using all his native craft, subtly weaving, caught unwary flies by the

tage, a blue and empty bay. Frank Quinn, too, was not the score. He turned his home into mollycoddle he had supposed him to fashionable hotel, and Nell, glad to be because he saw that his life had help him and never comprehending wants. No, no, Marie, neither my ful eyes. "Indeed it is not colte been as clean as even the old mald's, its chief import, became a busy if a nor my heart are now my own. It hat has induced me to question you in the strange manner i have done; long has stooped to beseech me but having discovered wherein lies own, and knew how to defend them. Its chief import, became a busy down, and knew how to defend them. been as clean as even the old maid's, its chief import, became a busy

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