[Original.] THE FERRAR FAMILY,

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

BY MRS. LUNDY.

CHAPTER II. read to or taught the younger children, some spent the noxious weeds of envy and detraction.

ancient and modern history. being importuned to take a part in it; but many did | Weston, "which grew with his growth and strengthened | that the present visit was intended for her alone. follow his example, and their practice was to begin with his strength;" yet he smothered the flame in his the vigil at nine and continue till one, and then re- own bosom till such time as he might perceive some ing topics; the latter asked many questions about the cline on their beds till the general hour of rising. - promise of a return from the fair object of his thoughts, The two of either sex who watched together said dis- for hitherto she had appeared equally kind or indiffetinctly all the psalms of David which they had not rent to all her cousins; but chance brought about an when singing a hynn, or warming themselves in winter for ever. Mr. Ferrar was not a person to wish to turbed that she was not sorry when the party separated at a fire in a room near their closets, for of the health shut out his young relatives entirely from society, so for the night, but not before Mr. Ferrar had cordially of his family Mr. Ferrar was particularly careful. At that they were occasionally allowed to visit their friends invited his guest to partake of breakfast in the mornone the watchers knocked at Mr. Ferrar's door, when who lived at a distance, particularly his sister's family ing before he resumed his journey; this kindness was he rose to begin his prayers and meditations, when he at Bourne, near Cambridge. His brother-in-law, Mr. gratefully accepted by the stranger, though he added, had not been up to keep the vigil; but latterly he Collet, was possessed of a good estate there, and "I ought to be many hours on my way before that inured himself to watch three times a-week, accus- though he differed from Mr. Ferrar in many points, time, nevertheless the temptation is too great to be toming two of his nephews, to whom he was much at- yet he revered and esteemed him for his great worth, resisted; the honour of being one of such a company tached, to watch with him three or four hours, but and had willingly placed two of his own sons under as this, though for so brief a space, is but too tempting," only one night in the week. During the heat of sum- his wing at Little Gidding for the furtherance of their saying which he again looked at Alice, who retired to when the boys, after a while, were allowed to lie down between the two families. It will be supposed that known before: and well might Alice feel unusually and sleep, but their uncle persisted in his divine con- the fair Alice enjoyed a visit to Bourne more than any agitated, for she was aware that the stranger was de templations, often till five in the morning.

Mr. Ferrar and his exemplary family: his attachment into every passing amusement; and soon after the visit was some way connected with herself. She dared to the doctrines of the reformed Church placed him conversation with which our story commenced, Alice not confide in any of her cousins, for that would throw beyond suspicion as to holding opinions in favour of received an invitation from Mrs. Collet to spend a blame on one whom, truth to say, she admired but the Romish Church; yet there were those who looked few weeks at Bourne before the winter set in, when too much: she had been so attracted by his personal with a jealous eye upon all these doings. The extrathe roads would not admit of travelling; she was to appearance and manners, on the king's visit, that his ordinary course of life pursued at Little Gidding, the set off in a day or two under the escort of her uncle image had been indelibly impressed on her mind, strictness of their rules, their prayers, abstinence and John, when an incident occurred which sadly disturbed and she then formed a wish they might meet again vigils, gave rise to many false reports, both from the the usual serenity of her mind. It has been seen that And they had met, and they perfectly understood each papists and the puritans, the latter calling the society it was no unusual thing for travellers to beg a night's other: but was Alice happy? Alas no! for she had the protestant numbery; and notwithstanding the real lodging at the manor-house, for in those days there entered upon a course of deceit; and to screen this and extensive good they did, they were so slandered were no houses of public entertainment in villages off unknown guest, with whom she had not even exchanged that Mr. Ferrar complained to his friends that the the high road, and on this occasion, just as the family one word, she was secretly forsaking the right path, obloquy he endured was a sort of martyrdom.

in the affairs of their neighbours, we will give them a young gentleman of good address and courteous man- lips only, for her heart was filled with earthly and unslight sketch of their intercourse with those of the ners awaiting him: the stranger spoke of a long jourbetter class of society who were in their immediate ney, a tired steed, and the lateness of the hour, as a The next morning the stranger was ready to join vicinity. The continuance of the plague for several reason for intruding his company at such a time; Mr. their devotions previous to the early meal, and appeared months after their taking possession of the manor- Ferrar, with his usual kindness, gave him a cordial so attentive and devout that Mr. Ferrar was much house, cast such a damp upon the spirits of the people welcome, and seeing him to be fit company for his pleased; he also united his fine voice in the hymn, and in all classes of society, that in the country where assembled family, he ushered him into the supper- compared the female singers to angels, at which Mr. such disastrous events make a deeper impression room, and placed him beside himself at the lower end Ferrar looked grave, and gave him a gentle rebuke on than even in the very scene of its horrors in the city, of the table. Little did the guileless master of the the subject of comparing frail mortality with the retithe thinking and sympathizing portion of their neigh- house imagine that his guest had once been a partaker | nue of the supreme being. In these early days it was bours were in no mood for visiting, but in the following of his hospitality before; but so it was, and we must not customary for young maidens to speak before spring the fame of their manner of life had spread go back to the late visit of the king, to explain who strangers, so that no conversation passed among them, abroad, and curiosity induced many to visit their abode, this nameless visitor was, and for what purpose he and when the meal was concluded the females curtised who came from a great distance: both they and their assumed his present disguise.

Church came full of curiosity to sound a man of such and then proceeded with the service in his own devout depth of karning, such strong judgment and such real manner. Charles was naturally disposed to religious piety, as rumour had attached to Mr. Ferrar. He did | feelings, and his attention was riveted on Mr. Ferrar; The conference was spun out to great length; was evanescent. As for the king himself, there are so versed every essential point of difference between we feel sorry to use the words of an opponent of the protestant and papist; and parted upon such terms king, "that so good a man should make so bad a as were proper for men who desired, at least, to main- prince" The young cavaliers of the party were fortain the communion of charity with each other.

that the presence of strangers should not interfere and peculiar style of dress and modest demeanour, so with their stated devotional exercises either in the unlike anything about the court, riveted the eyes of house or Church, and if they were disposed to join those who we fear had no better thoughts to engage them they were more welcome. Some who came them even in the holy sanctuary. Several of those with no design of improvement, would give their young ladies shone pre-eminent in beauty, particularly opinion that he lived too retired, that he studied too Isabella Morley and Alice Weston, and on the beaming hard, and exacted too much from his own infirm body, countenance of the latter the eyes of one cavalier were and that a life of more recreation would better suit his | fixed the whole time of the service: never before had health. His answer was, "what the world calls living he seen a face which realised all his ideas of perfection. like a gentleman, to eat and drink well, to keep ir- and he resolved this chance meeting with the village regular hours, to have much time to misspend on beauty should not be the last. To gain an introduction hunting and hawking, carding and dicing, riding out to her on this occasion was impossible, as the whole

and visiting. Such a life," says he, "would be so of Mr. Ferrar's family, after making a respectful obeidangerous, that I had rather suffer death, than enter sance to the king, left the church: his majesty having upon such a course of life."

Little Gidding they were bereaved of that most freely into all the minutice, and concluded his compliexemplary member of it, the mother of Mr. Ferrar; mentary approbation in these words, "Would that I she died full of years, esteemed, beloved, and much had many more such examples as you, Mr. Ferrar, regretted by all who knew her; she retained her amongst my subjects: we have too many preachers faculties to the last, and her end was peace. After whose doctrines tend more to spread anarchy and On the first Sunday of the month, and on the so- his mother's death, Mr. Ferrar was still more strict in confusion than peace and good will.' lemn festivals, they celebrated the Holy Communion his religious exercises; he seldom went to bed above In the mean time, the lords and other attendants BARRISTER AND ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

said during the day, and this upon their knees, except avowal, which, but for that, might have lain dormant the stranger looked over at Alice, who was so permes passed the night in the church, education, and the most friendly intercourse existed her apartment in a state of mind such as she had never of her cousins would have done, inasmuch as she was ceiving her worthy and unsuspecting uncle, and with Such were the daily and unwearied occupations of possessed of very buoyant spirits, which readily entered the quick sight of woman, she felt assured that his

nearer neighbours were received with respect and Christian fellowship; the more substantial marks of the king to the north, when he set up his standard at perceived to a small window in a turiet, looking upon hospitality, too, were freely given; wine and home Nottingham, his majesty being on his way thither, was the court, when she saw the stranger mount and look brewed ale and cake were offered to all visitors of told he was not far from Little Gidding, of which he upwards, and catching a glimpse of her he sought, he any note, but no other entertainment as Mr. Fer- had heard so much, and he resolved to visit the place, bowed and rode off at full speed. Alice joined her rar was obliged to limit his hospitalities, both from and striking out of his way, he rode thither, accom- cousins at their interesting work, but her mind was motives of economy and the fear of being oppressed panied by the youthful Prince of Wales, Prince Rupert, filled with other thoughts; "the still small voice" of by a multitude of guests; yet such was the curiosity | the Duke of Richmond, and other nobles who attended | conscience whispered to her she was acting wrong, yet that prevailed regarding the family at Little Gidding, him; among these was a young and handsome cavalier | she had not the courage or the wish to free herself from that sometimes men of birth and fortune have been named Villiers, a near relative of the Duke of Buck- the web she was weaving around her: self-love was led to travel to a neighbouring village, there leave their ingham, who with his name inherited some of the vices flattered, and she dwelt on worldly scenes, on pomps servants and horses, and entreat a night's lodging, which distinguished that dissipated courtier. It so and splendours, till the unvaried and peaceful life she saying they had lost their way: such guests were al- happened that Mr. Ferrar and his whole family were was now leading became every day more distasteful to ways well received, and partook of the best the house solemnizing some high festival in the church when the her. afforded. The vicinity of Little Gidding to the great royal party rode up to the house: a servant who was north road drew great numbers of casual visitors, left in care of the premises told the king's page that gentry, clergy, and eminent scholars; and often the Mr. Ferrar could not be seen for one hour or more, Romish Priests, who came to discover Mr. Ferrar's being engaged at the church: "Then we will follow opinious, which, he plainly told them, were firmly him there," said the king, and he dismounted, as did established in the principles of the established Church his followers; the horses were led into the stables and the royal party entered the church. Mr. Ferrar One day three learned Priests of the Roman paused till they were all accommodated with seats, not decline engaging with them, having, in his travels, his example impressed the rest of his party with that seen their practices with his own eyes, and made it demeanour suited to the time and place, though it is his business to compare them with their pretences. feared any goodly impressions received were but too supported on all hands with equal temper; they tra- many records of his pious and amiable disposition, that cibly attracted by the nine nieces of Mr. Ferrar, who It was one of the regulations of this establishment, sat together on a bench in the chancel: their simple

expressed a wish to have some conversation with Mr. Ten years after the first settling of the family at Ferrar regarding his mode of worship, and he entered

without fail, the evening prior being dedicated to a once in a week, and then would merely lie upon the of the king were partaking of such refreshments as strict preparation for that holy feast; and on these ground on a bear's skin, with a gown of black frieze | could be set forth in such a hurry; and as Mr. Ferrar occasions the servants that had partaken with them wrapt about him; yet his health rather improved than was a lover of hospitality, and his family consisted of were not thought unworthy to eat with them in the not, under all his austerities. After the death of the more than forty persons, we may presume the means parlour, where they took their seat at the lower end venerable mother of the family, the wife of Mrs. Ferrar's of offering it were always at hand. The king having of the table. On the week-days they rose early and elder brother took the lead in all domestic arrange- | heard of a remarkable work of Scripture history, which came into the great chamber, where the younger ne- ments and superintendence of the young females: she Mr. Ferrar had compiled, assisted by his mother, phews and nieces repeated to Mr. Ferrar psalms or was an excellent woman, of good sense, and strict asked to see it, and was so pleased with its useful chapters recently learnt: at six the bell invited them propriety of manners, but she was not gifted with all arrangement, that he entreated Mr. Ferrar to lend it BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR. to the common room, and the person whose turn it the virtues which shone forth so preeminently in her him when he should return to London. The volume was read the psalms appointed for the hour, for each mother-in-law; she was too partial to her own chil- was dispatched accordingly, and the king studied it hour of the day had its allotted psalms, so that the dren to deal fairly with those other relatives who were every day for some months; and, on returning it, rewhole Psalter was duly and devoutly said over by them, beloved by Mr. Ferrar; she had lived the greatest quested to have a copy for himself, "As," said his verse by verse, within the compass of the twenty-four part of her life in the gay city, and perhaps the retired messenger, "it is a book the king delights in so hours; then one of them said, without book, one of situation and peculiar mode of life to which she was much,"-upon which Mr. Ferrar and his nieces comthe heads of the concordance or harmony, which they destined would not have been her own choice, but her menced the work of which we have made mention. had made of the four Evangelists: this book was so divi- husband had been unsuccessful in large speculations Mrs. Ferrar, with prudent foresight, had sent all ded into heads, or chapters, and so manyof those heads in the mercantile line, and was now obliged to his the young ladies to their apartments; but, excepting Residence, Sumach Cottage, Ann Street. assigned to each hour of the day, that, beginning on younger brother for a maintenance and a home in his Isabella Morley, whose well regulated mind knew no the first of each month and ending on the last, the house. This lady had for some time harboured a se- excitement, it is not to be supposed the usual tasks gospels were all said over in every month; the services cret dislike to the beautiful orphan Alice Weston, who were resumed till after the departure of the royal for every hour were so framed that the collect, psalms had been received into the family about two years be- cavalcade. They took their stations at some windows and gospel all lasted but a quarter of an hour; this fore our story commences: whether it was that the overlooking the court, where the royal party assembled done, and a short hymn sung, the organ playing, they transcendent beauty of Alice threw her own daughters to mount their horses. If the truth must be told, then went to church, where Mr. Ferrar read the liturgy into the shade, or that she had observed a rising at- Alice Weston had observed the gaze of the young in full. At seven another office of collect, psalms, tachment in the attentions of her eldest son to his fair cavalier in the church, and she was equally pleased gospel and hymn was performed, and the family ad- cousin, which gave rise to jealous feelings, was not with his handsome face, elegant figure, and splendid journed to breakfast, after which they took to their quite clear; but so it was, and even in this little circle dress; and now she saw the same person on horsevarious employments; some used the needle, others of piety and peace, we shall see there might be found back, looking up at each window till he caught sight of her, when he took off his plumed cap, bowed frepart of the day perfecting the concordance, or getting The eldest son of Mr. T. Ferrar was about twenty quently, and turned his head to the window where she it by heart, others practised singing or instrumental years of age; he was named Nicholas after his uncle, stood, till the winding road shut out the manor-house music, and some were skilful in binding and gilding had been under his care for many years, and was de- from his gaze. Alice felt flattered that a gay young books, Mr. Ferrar having a book-binder from Cam- servedly loved by him, who formed in his young pupil courtier should single her out as an object of attention, bridge to teach them. At eight, nine and ten they a disposition congenial to his own, and assisted him and she dwelt hour by hour on the rencontre; albeit had their services, and then they again went to church, in the same studies which he had himself pursued. In her heart smote her for her folly, yet did she not and Mr. Ferrar read the litany, which, by permission these he made such a rapid progress as astonished all endeavour to fling the thoughts from her, which of his diocesan, he read every day: at eleven din- who knew him, and might even occasion a difficulty were absorbing her whole attention; and it was in a ner was served, and after grace and a hymn, while of belief. Mr. Ferrar spared no expense in his edu- dispirited and unhappy frame of mind that the conthe family were eating, one of the youths read to them cation, providing able tutors in the sciences and lan- versation with Isabella, at the opening of our story, some passage from English history, engaging and in- guages, and giving up much of his own time to the took place. Well might the latter suspect that the teresting, which many of them noted down afterwards. task: he too was gifted with an extraordinary memory visit of the king had unsettled the mind of the hitherto Besides this, after dinner one of the boys repeated a and intense application, he was also the constant at- cheerful and happy Alice; and it was shortly after story, compiled on purpose for him by Mr. Ferrar, in tendant of his uncle in his religious exercises, his this dialogue took place between the cousins, that the good language, and tending to promote virtue and mo- nightly watching, and other acts of devotion, and it is visit of the young traveller took place, and when seated rality: this practice brought the youths into a habit to be feared that these severe exertions might have at the supper-table, there was one of that family who of speaking with becoming assurance, and without been too much for his delicate frame, and tend to instantly recognized the stranger, their eyes met, and affectation. These exercises made them men betimes shorten his days. His mind was richly stored with Alice Weston felt that she must keep the secret. The in useful knowledge, and the females well versed in all kinds of knowledge, but above all his acquaintance stranger was habited in a plain travelling dress, though with divinity was quite astonishing for one so young; formed in a gallant fashion, and his complexion was Mr. Ferrar introduced another piece of ancient his manners were quiet and unaffected, and his per-Christian discipline, which was watching or vigils; sonal appearance highly interesting. Such was the Little Gidding,—and to all but Alice his disguise was but it was only required as a free-will offering, no one youth who did indeed foster an attachment to Alice complete, and need we say her heart whispered her

Mr. Ferrar and his guest discussed many interestcourt, saying he had been long absent in the north on urgent business. Mr. Ferrar alluded to the honour lately conferred upon him by the king's visit; on this were sitting down to supper, a servant announced to and rendering herself unworthy the regard of her ex-That our readers may not suppose this worthy family Mr. Ferrar that a stranger wished to speak with him emplary friends. Sleep fled from the pillow of Alice, quite shut out from the world, and taking no interest in the hall; he left the supper-room, and found a and for the first time in her life she prayed with the

worthy thoughts. and retired. Soon after the sound of a horse was heard

(To be continued.)

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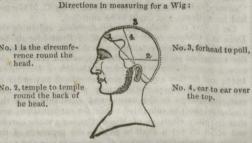
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