TWO

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UNITED KINGDOM

BY MRS. INNES-BROWNE

CHAPTER XVII.

The new year that had its birth, and had dawned amidst such eplendor and festivities beneath the strong towers of Baron Court, was now no longer. The bright warm sun had grown cold and bleak the earth, trees, and shrubs had borns their beautiful flowers and fruit ; and now a cold, keen November wind searched the country in strong and fit ul blasts, and sought with relentless force to strip and sweep every lingering leaf and spray from its sweet summer resting - place. With remorseless fury it chased and hunted the faded yellow leaves down streets and around the squares of the city of Edinburgh, herded and hustled them in o every nook and cranny, where they vainly sought for refuge and shelter, till discovered by a louder and stronger blast they were once more roused and sent hurrying recklessly after their weary companions - rushing pell mell to sure and certain destruction.

It was not a day that many would have chosen for a walk of pleasure, least of all would they have willingly faced that fierce wind upon a h But what cared Madge for that? Fewer people would be about,' mused the girl; and had she not learnt to strive and struggle against things far harder and more cruel than the elements-ay, and to subdue them too ? Her poor heart could answer for that, so could the quist look of brave determination which was now one of the chief character istics of her features. With firm and hopeful steps she had trodden the hard, rough road of poverty and trial ; yet she had not failed to see and pluck the fair flowers that, almost hidden, blossomed by the wayside, and their sweet and fragrant parlume had filled her heart with tranquil joy, peace, and resignation, the cer tain reward of duty nobly and faish. fully accomplished. She came slowly up the bill, the

full skirt of her black dress floating in the wind, whilst both hands were upraised in almost vain spdeavor to save her broad black hat from follow. ing the course of the gale.

Where has vanished the awkward gait and rounded figure of her schoolgirl days ? Not a vestige of it remains. Very tall and slight she has grown in form ; so slight, indeed, that it is by a strong effort of her will alone he keeps her fest and moves evenly forward.

It is only a little more than two years since she left her convent home, and yet what a change that time has wrought in her. The clear ous was har heart." grey eyes are looking straight ahead as of old, nor is their asady light dimmed one iota ; but the dimpled cheeks are wan and thin ; gone, too. are the healthy brown freckles, but in their place the skin is fair and white, almost transparent; the blue Madge was firm. vains so prominent upon her mother's neck and temples are still more noticeable upon har daughter's;

whilet the chestnut hair has lost its brightest tingle, and toned to the shade of a rich suburn. though to force the From her mother she has inherited

that look of quiet refinement which stamps her every movement; from her grandfather that courageous and indomitable will which has enabled box for how long," she said pas-sionately. "After that, He will pro-"Oh, I feared you might have forher to endure so much. She wears sionately. "After that, He will pro-

more aversion to him than any one was he not a living link of the olden else I ever heard her speak of life? He stood for almost a minute absorbed in admiration, and endeav.

ouring to deciper the meaning of the rapid changes that flitted over her expressive countenance. Then he spoke. "Let us sit down together, epoke. "Let us sit down together, Miss FitzAllan, and tell me all about yourself. Marie is yearning to see you again, and so are all your old

friends. of them, and ere long they stood in How very good and kind of you. front of No. 50. The girl's heart replied Madge, with her old winning misgave her as she neared the door. ile; but the color rose to har What would he think of her when cheeks, and her voice faltered as she he saw the style of house in which continued, "I dare not stay long; I shall be missed. Besides, I have they lived ?" stranger to joy for so long that I know not how I can endure it You have lost some relative

example!'

then ?' he said kindly, half forcing her on to the seat, and sitting down beside her. She nodded assent. " My poor than usual as he bade her good.

father died about ten days ago.' ' And your mother ?

"She is ill, very ill," said the girl, rising quickly. "The walk home is a long one. I must return, or she that afternoon her to see our only friend, the doctor, will wondar what has happened.'

"Then I will accompany you. You this afternoon. He is at present will not refuse me that favor ?" said staying a few miles out of town." Louis earnestly. She cast one quick, almost plead.

she-dragon is still with you-the ing look at him, as though to assure horself he was to be trusted, and replied firmly, " No, I will not refuse servant who met you in London ?" "Poor Mary? Oh yes; but you must not call her by that name. Her heart is true and honest, if her your request, Mr. Louis. May I ask face is hard and plain. Good bye,' you what has brought you to Edinreplied the girl sadly but bravely burgh ?" she inquired. She had so enjoyed her walk ; it was

"I came purposely on business for-our lawyer, and Marie charged me so sweet to feel that she was treated by old friends with the same court. with some for herself." esy and respect as before.

What was it ?" To search everywhere, and leave

endeavoring to speak calmly.

At three o'clock that same after. noon Louis stood once more at the no stone unturned until I found you, dcor of No. 50, and rather timidly and then to try and see if we could rang the bell. It was duly answered not by some means brighten your by Mary, whose sharp eyes kindled life, were it ever so little." Dear little Marie, and so she is with surprise as they fell upon the

as kind as ever. I am very grateful jovial face and strong athletic form of the young man before her ; but by to her. Why should I sadden her no sign did she allow that he was kind heart by a recital of my troubles? Besides," she continued recognized. Well, sir, and what may your cheerfully, "I am quite happy, and business bs?" she inquired, still holding the door in one hand, and have, oh, so very much to be thank-ful for. God has been so good, and

not failing to note the look of hesitahas given me courage and strength tion and perplexity upon his coun to endurs so much. He will not ask of me more than I can perform," she ' I-I wanted to seesaid, with a sweet, trustfal look.

"Me mistress is not in, sir !" she ' And we can do nothing for you?' he said, in a tone of disappointment. interrupted sharply. No ! but I thought that-Absolutely nothing," she replied,

Neither is the young lady." know that !" he said impa-

the honor of calling upon her mother

'Not today," she answered grate-

this, you may tell your sweet little sister, with my fondest love, that I tiently. "I wish to see you !" "The dickens you do !" exclaimed am not now the same thoughtlese, Why. the woman in surprise. careless, Madge whom she once you'd bees come if that's your errand !" She had not heard of the knew; that I am old, old for my years, and have seen so much of sorrow, shall I call it ? that nothing meeting between the young people, would induce me to inflict any upon and concluded he was bent upon worming out their position and cirher on my account. Nay," fervently, "I would rather suffer more to spare cumsiances.

Spying, I'll ba bound," thought her the slightest pain." "Spyi "Brave girl," thought Louis, deeply moved. "I knew how gener-"Wall 'Much may he get out Well, sir." she said, leading the

way to the kitchen, "then as comes In vain he pleaded permission for to see me must e'en visit me in his sister to help her, not forgetting to state the progressihe had made in me own quarters.

His errand being a delicate one, his studies of the law, and the hope Louis took with some timidity the he had that before very, very long seat offered him, and looked with he would be called to the bar. undisguised dislike upon the woman, who had drawn another chair oppos-"Oh, do not tempt me with such dreams of happiness as visiting Ire. Ite to him, and now sat with one hand spread out upon each knee, land and seeing dear Marie again !" she cried, shielding her eyes with eyeing him silently but corlously. He falà he must speak at once.

her hands and shaking her head, as "You remember my sister ?" he bright vision from her sight. "I know-I know began. I do. She struck me as one

it must not be. My place is by my

gotten me !" "Not I ; but you've come on a

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

Oh,

The heart of Louis was warming to this woman now as she waxed

Miss Madge will never leave her home, sir, so long as her mother and false to your colors ; what an lives ; but to my judgment the poor man." lady is fast breaking up." "In "What ? another dreadful trial in please Madge had so many questions to

ask, and Louis managed to entertain store for Miss FifzAllan ! Oh ! do her so thoroughly, that the long walk appeared all too short for both promise that if we can be of any hungry today." she continued. help-the greater the better-that you will let me know," he implored. Well, I may do," she said frankly "I do believe you are honest, and would do your best to aid my young said her friend. She could not resist lady; and maybe I'm not altogether bread.'

casting one quick furtive glance at so had as you think me." his face; but Louis, reading her "Iknow it now," he said, walking heart in that glauce, appeared to towards her and offering her his hand. few words more the old man passed op, and the child resumed Ler play. notice nothing, and neither by look "And you will tell Miss FuzAllan nor word expressed the smallest that I am obliged to leave Edinburgh astonishment. His manner was even more cordial and courteous my sister with me on my next visit; with him, and then he would leave and you-you will not forget your ter. One day she asked him. "How is

morning, promising to do himself promise, Mary ? "No, sir, I will not. And think no more of my manner today. I have had much to put me about of late, day and now I see you so often." "Well," was the reply, "I used to fully ; "she is ill, and I must take and did not quite know what you live in another part of the city, and were after." some time ago I moved here.

He's a true-hearted gentleman and I like his honest face," thought Mary, as she closed the street door Stay; tell me if that terrible after him," and I'm glad those two young ladies have not forgotten our Lucy. or Miss Madge. Who knows but little friend." she may mix with her own set yet ?

TO BE CONTINUED

LUCY'S FRIEND OF THE that means?" PARK

know its meaning." Mrs. Dunstan often walked to the Lucy Danstan had a very tender heart. She could not bear to see any park with Lucy, and gradually bacame quite interested in Lucy's one suffer, and her pity extended to every kind of living thing. When friend, who she now felt certain was she first learned that meat was made from the cows and sheep she had first conjectured, but probably an old seen grazing in the field, she refused soldier living on his pension, frugally

No, sir, I do not."

to eat any for a long time afterward. of course, but quite comfortably. Indeed, it was only when, after a iclent attack of measles, the doctor insisted upon her sating broiled steak and chicken that she would consent to take them. She was such a sensitive child, though uniformly sweet and amiable, that her parents feared the world might go very hard with her should Providence take who it was believed, had gone abroad

them from her. One day she was walking with her mother in the park, when they met an old man with a wooden leg. His erty or keep it in repair.

clothes were shabby, his hair and heard unkempt, and his general appearance that of one accustomed to poverty. Lucy gazed upon him with When she related the circumstances compassion, even turning her head for another glance after they had passed him.

'Do not look back at the poor man, Lucy," said her mother. 'He can explain it. No doubt he is carewill think you very curious and his taker of the Ralph house and has a feelings may be wounded." room in the back part, near the old But, mamma, I am not curious.

vegetable garden." "Yes," said her husband, "I only sorry for him," replied the little 'He is old, and has a wooden remember having seen a couple of girl leg. He must be very poor. windows opened there lately.' give me a dime to put in his Christmas with its manifold pleas

hand? ures came and went most joyfully Mrs. Dunstan glanced sround. Tas A few days later, as Lucy was trund. man was standing near a beach. ling her hoop in the park, she saw which he evidently intended to sit, her friend advancing to meet her. and his eyes were on Lucy. They Her eyes spoke the joy in her affechad a kindly, almost imploring extionate heart. "Ob, I am so very glad to see you!" she said. "We pression, as though he would have liked to speak to the child. She did thought you had gone away forever, not know exactly what to do. and I was a little worried, too, for 'Lucy," she said, "the man does imagined you might have been sick

not seem to be a beggar. He is not and alone in that big house you take holding out his hand, or his hat. I care of. do not like to offer him money. "I believe that is because he is not

really a beggar, but he is poor, I know," rejoined the child. "I will

"Certainly," replied Doctor Dun-stan, and the stranger opened the box. Wishin was one of faded stranger in the city, whose path "Oh, no, replied Lucy. "We live over yonder. My father is Doctor velvet. Touching a spring the visitor revealed a locket, framed in pearls "I have heard of him," rejoined with four fine diamonds in the center the old man. "He is a very good in the form of a cross. It was attached to a delicate gold chain of

'Indeed, he is." replied Lucy, the finest workmanship. Placing and fastening it around Lucy's neck, he said : "My darling pleased to hear her dear father praised. "I hope you do not feel child, I give you this as a memento know a quarter does not go very far, of the degreest thing I ever owned in this world. Keep it, wear it, and but it will buy some loaves of bread.' Very small loaves these days," d ber friend. "But that quarter treasure it. You are very like my sister-whose nature was akin has brought me what is better than vours-gentle, loving, generous and The day I saw you first I was pure. Lucy looked a little mystified, but reminded of her, and the long sealed asked no further questions. After a fountains of my crusty old hear once more began to flow. I am a changed man. This child has accon Almost daily thereafter she would plished a miracle," he continued meet him, exchange a few words turning to Doctor Dunstan.

"Then, putting his arm around Lucy, he drew her to his breast. "My dear, he said, "you have transit that I never saw you until that formed a hardened old man into real human being. Blessed are the parents that call you their own.

The child nestled closely to her friend, gazing up into his eyes That is why I walk in this park instead of the one near which I formerly lived." spoke, while her delicate fingers clasped the beautiful lockst he had 'Do you like it as well ?'' inquired fastened about her slender white tbroat.

Much better. I had no friends "She is a dear child." said the mother, " but we must not make her before, and now I have a very dear proud." You could not make her proud,

'Why didn't you have any before?" "Well, parhaps it may have been through my own fauls. I am some will always be a stranger to her soul will always be a stranger to her scul And now," he continued, " I will tell you who I am. My name is Chetwynd thing of a cynic. Do you know what

Ralph, of whom, of course, you have "Well, forget it, and may you never often heard. I am the owner of the dlapidated place quite close to you From this time forward I intend to

live as a human being, not as a cynical recluse. My story would not interest you by no means as poor as they had at nor would my excuses hold in the minds of any reasonable beings of whom I have not, until now, one. But in whatever of the future

Not far from the Dunstan resiis left to me, I shall try to redaen the past. I have suffered injustice. dence, at the corner of the square, a very large but gloomy looking house the treachery of friends, and many was situated in the mides of sonce other things. I should have risen beautiful but now neglected garden, above them, but I did not. I trust God will forget the past which had long been an eyesore to and the prosperous neighborhood. It illumine the future with His blessed

belonged to an eccentric gentleman joy and peace. Two years from that night, the Dunstans were once more reassem-bled in the drawing room of their soveral years before, and who had obstinately refused to sell the prop beautifal home. But the old man was not there. He had died six One morning as Lucy was passing nonths baters leaving a latter to the corner, she saw her friend of the park ascend the steps of the mansion, Lucy which was not to be opene until New Year's night and now the time had come.

Lucy and her mother seated them to her mother, Mrs. Danstan said selves on either side of Doctor Now the mystery is solved. I could Danstan. This is what the Doctor not imagine where the old man lived, in this neighborhood. But I think I read :

" My Dear Little Girl:

"You have been my guardian angel and my salvation. My sole regret in leaving this world is in leaving you and the good, kind parents whose care and policitude will keep you always as you are. If after I have stoned for my sins in God's blesse purgatory, it is permitted me to so I shall watch over you from H s peradice. May He always have you in His keeping.

'Your Friend of the Park."

Accompaning this note was a bequest of \$20,000 in trust for Dunstan until she had arrived at the age of twenty one years, after which was to be placed in her own ands.

And that is how Lucy became an Precious little care I take of it.' heiress-because of the goodness and kindness of a loving, unselfish heart .-- Mary E. Mannix, in Young he rejoined. "But I live there true 'Yes," said Lucy, "I even went Catholic Messenger.

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would never cross my own again

what fun, what fun, if she should marry after all ! Oh, fie ! Ireland," said the girl merrily, "I am ashamed of you !--you the eldest of us all." "Miss Madge will never leave her ject. " Of course I see now that she cannot leave her home." Dunstan."

that hadge of mourning - craps upon her dress, yet are her threat and wrists encircled as of old by a small lace collar and cuffs.

Not a soul was in sight, and the girl struggled bravely on, battling cheerfully with the wind, until she reached a sheltered seat, upon which she sank fairly exhausted.

I must not linger long," she pondered ; " poor little mother will miss me. But, ob, how invigorating and retreshing is the air here! It is well worth the walk, and how lovely is the solitude ! It must be glorious to live as the old hermits ing. did in the depths of the vast forests lated, looking at him in astonishand wilderness-far, so far from the ment. busy haunts of men. How I should have loved it, to be sure."

But a great turprise was awaiting her, of which she little dreamed. solitude was not as secure and perfect as she calculated upon, for the sound of footsteps was distinctly heard descending the path above. in love.' Instinctively she withdrew to the more secluded corner of the seat. and awaited with downcast eyes until the pedestrian should have passed.

Marie, of all girls, in love. Something in the attitude of the girl's figure attracted Louis Blake's attention and arrested his steps ; he paused full in front of her. With a if only to enside back that marry look of proud inquiry Madge slowly light to her eyes, and bonnie smile raised her eyes from the neatly fit ting boots of the intruder, until they her. How delicate looking she has rested upon his frank and open grown, to be sure! Marie would scarcely know her." countenance. Then springing joy-fully to her feet she allowed him to exclaimed in accents of unfeigned inquire the favorad gentleman's but myself knows what she has come joy and surprise, "O Mr. Louis, I am name? I am so very interested," through." But do not go far away." pleased to see you! How is said the girl excitedly. Marie ?'

1.

.

'And I," he replied excitedly-" I world ?" that inspired me to try this hill as a last resource.'

wrong. He had not forgetten her altogether, then. Had Marie, had brosher.' Beatrice the same kind wish to see oor unfortunate Madge once Now Madge burst into a loud and Ab, she must still the wild merry fit of laughter, the first for their poor unfortunate Madge once throbbings of her foolish heart and school is to endure more-more still; but the mere sight of him- Grantheuse! why, she expressed

happy with my mother, and should bit since I saw you last." ba wretched away from her. Seeing it was useless to urge ber further, the young man was silent.

'It is a solemn and deplorable

the Convent?

to know it she can befriend or assist "Has Marie altered?" inquired Miss FitzAllan in any way." his companion, changing the sub- "In what way?" abruptl In what way ?" abruptly.

Well, you know the best. Is there ject; " and when does she return to anything that we can do for her ? I don't know what you mean.

In spite of the serious thoughts 'Now, look here," said Louis which then occupied his mind, at rising and standing with his back this question Louis laughed audibly. to the fire-he was provoked at the "Do you know," he said cheerfully, woman's indifference and coolnessbetween you and me, I do really what is the use of us beating about thick that her vocation is evaporat-

the bush? Why not come to the Never ! impossible !" she ejacu. point at once ?" "if I knew what point you're aim-ing at," she retorted. "I'd be there

as soon as you." Then listen," said Louis sternly.

her, studied her, and-now, don't laugh-I have come to the conclu-sion that, in spite of her states in spite of the spite laugh-I have come to the conclu-sha has had a great deal of trouble, desires to befriend her in some way. Do you think she could come and

"Ob, surely not " exchanges Mary liked his stern, compared amusement. "You must be manner, and instantly relaxed her suspicions. " Maybe his intentions 'Ob. surely not !" exclaimed stay with us ?" re honest ; leastways, I'll not insult a friend of Miss Madge's."

"How gladly I would draw the long bow and tell her that the wedding day is fixed," thought Louis, in a gentler tone: She lewered her eyes and replied "Ne, no, sir, she cannot go at

present; her poor mother could not to her lips; but I cannot deceive live wishout her.' Mrs. FitzAllan is ill, then ?

"Very, very. She has but lately buried her husband, and he was ill for many weary months. No one faid to her: "If you like, you may "Would it bassking too much to

Who assists, advises, or helps the " Surely it " Has must be some staid and grey headed poor lady ?" he asked kindly. old sage, one who will guard and she no friends ?"

" Not now, sir," sadly shaking her shield her from all unnecessary con ing you. It was a blessed thought that with the frivolities of this head. "One friend alone she has, which faced her house. who supports, loves, and cherishes

"No, indeed, you are entirely I do believe the audacious culprit is Lady Beatrice's eldest

wronged her deeply, and upon hand. whom her poor mother leans for mother."

ask him," and before her mother ground to the back of the garden to could stop her, she was standing in front of him, her beautiful innocent Well, my sister is most anxious eyes and lovely face upturned to his. Are you very poor?" she inquired.

without a particle of embarrasement. The man sat down on the bench and took her band.

Why do you ask ?" he replied. "Why do you ass ? "Why do you are sorry for me?" Because you are sorry for me?" one "one " "Yes, sir," replied Lucy. "If you are poor we would has to help you a little and if you are not, we are soury for you just the same, becausa-

Of my wooden leg ?" "Yes, that is the reason," answered the child. "Well, then," she con-

the child. tinued, "I shall ask mamma to help vou. Her mother, who had heard all

that had passed, now stepped for ward. Opening her purse she tock from it a bright, new eilver quarter which she placed in Lucy's hand. The little girl laid it in the now out

stretched palm of the cripple, who received it in a paculiar manner. First he kissed the coin, placed it in his vest pocket, and then lifting Lucy's hand to his lips kissed it rev. erently.

"Thank you, my good child,' he said, "and God bless you. I hops I may see you again."

Lucy smiled and turned to her mother. In a moment they had passed out of sight.

Lucy put on her hat and took her basket in which she intended to gather some wild flowers, and ran merrily across the street to the park

She had not been there long, when her; one who for long weary nights the "clump, clump" of a wooden leg and days has stuck to her post at attracted her attention. Turning, the bedside of a parent who-God she saw her acquain ance of the day forgive me for saying it of him now before. He smiled and extended his

"I am very glad to see you again, guidance and support, as though she my child," he said. "I have been were the child and Miss Madge the wondering whether you lived in the neighborhood, or were only a little allow her to wear it ?"

see if you were there. But the win-dows were shut, so I fancied you must have gone away !

enough."

'I was called East very suddenly. replied her friend. "But now I an back again and glad to be here.'

"Did you have a nice Christmas ?" inquired Lucy. "We did, a splendid "I spent mine on the traip,' plied the old man. "As good s replied the old man. "As good a place as any for a homeless man like

He looked so sad as he spoke and

his voice was so corrowful that Lucy fels sad also.

A sudden thought came to her, and a resolve, which as soon as she re-turned home she lost no time in putting into effect. After relating to her parents what had occurred the continued, "Papa and mamma, I want you to do something for me;

will you ?' "What is it, Lucy ?' answered both poverty and misery of this last Christmas had decided him. parents at once.

Invite my friend to spend the evening on New Year's Day. He is so lonely, I know he is."

wretchedness of expectation had failen at last. For John had The Dunstans looked at each other. They could not refuse the request of declared-and the knew that now he might not be gainsaid-that, le the kind-hearted child. So it was settled that Lucy should ask her friend to come to them on New no longer remain in a country when Year's eve. be could not even make his daily

When she gave him the invitation the next day, he at once replied that he would come. Lucy was d lighted and named seven as the hour. She was at the door to welcome him. Taking his hand, she led him to her father and introduced him as "my

friend," for she knew bim by no holy days, to turn their backs upon other name. He at once entered their dear green isle forever and into the spirit of the occasion, made seek a batter fortune in that far off himself entirely at home, examined and praised the Christmas tree, land.

which was lighted once more before being dismantled, and at length, tak ing a box from his pocket, he said to Doctor Dunstan :

"I have a little gift here which peaceful church where her roey should like to present to this darling child. It once belonged to another cheeked four had been baptized an three of them had made their First Communions. And there, a motionchild whom I dearly loved. Will you

THE NEW YEAR'S GIF'I

and passed like the sunset.

The blow that Mary Flagan had

been so long awaiting in a dumi

them weep as they would, he would

bread nor provide a roof for the four

little ones dependent on him. A month or five weeks later, as soon as

the necessary money for the passage to America had been collected, they

were to leave the well known ways.

the familiar faces and the old, fresh

It had long been threatening, at AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN PLANS. Hot and Cold Sea Water Baths. last it had come. For a year or MACK LATZ CO back, John Flanagan's thoughts had persistently turned westward acros the ocean leagues, westward to the golden Land of the Setting Sun LOUIS SANDY And for more than a year or two past, the family's fortune had as persistently been ebbing, lower and always lower, the family's hopes had



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Then despair seemed to settle down on Mary's scul. She could ecarcely frame a word of prayer, yet, at morning Mass, and during many a louely moment she crept daily, as usual, but oftener now, to the little Postpaid 900.