TWO

Published by permission of Burns. Oates & Washbourne, London, England. THREE DAUGHTERS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

BY MRS. INNES-BROWNE

CHAPTER XIX.

It was almost twenty four years since last they parted, these two old friends.

The bright warm sun had shone upon them as they stood bidding each other a fond farewell, and promising, in school-girl fashion, everlasting love and fidelity. One a pretty, happy, light hearted girl, with more serious thoughts of life before her than to cull its brightest blossome, and enjoy to the full, in an easy, refined manner, the number less pleasures doubtless in store for The other, handsome, highher. spirited, and far-seeing, who looked apon life even then as stern reality, upon whom her weaker sisters leaned for support, from whose lips even the aged and the wise sought counsel. Such then were Margaret Gordon and Marie de Valois. And now they meet once more? The once fair, fragile girl prematurely aged, crushed, and broken ! The flowers she had gathered were meant to fade; the hidden thorns to pierce her hands.

The pleasures she had sought for such girlish eagerness had with turned into pains before she had all that Mary said as she hugged the ever fairly grasped or tasted their nising delights. But, in spite of all those bitter disappointments and me lady. You mauna leave us yet. heavy lingering trials, she had borne them all with unflagging and heroic patience ; weary, yet had she been found faith- you all." ful, and thus won for herself almost a martyr's crown. The other, the and the woman, unable to endure grown stronger, more strong one, powerful still ; more able and willing even than of old to fold to her heart and rescue the weak, and the the day. wounded, and with her soothing influence bestow upon them more than a mother's love.

Early the next morning, upon the puzzled ear of the invalid fell the had things altered. There is someold familiar sound of the Angelus thing grand and consoling in a death She opened her eyes and like Mrs. FitzAllan's. No hurry, no listened. Then there rushed upon confusion ; resigned and patient in her mind the full realization of her soul with joy. Silent tears stole sible to be done for her; and the down her wasted chesks, and with folded hands she murmured brokenly, broke upon her face at the sight of ton, sweet bell, and do not her old friend and Mother, never left ; for you speak of peace, peace her features even in death. Perfect Ring on, sweet bell, and do not CABER at last.'

It was noon before Mrs. FitzAllan could be wheeled round to the room spoken of by Lady Abbess the previous evening; and when she was rested, and kind hands had comfort | they laid her to rest in the quiet and ably ensconced her on a bed, supporting her weak frame by pillows vent, where already slept several and cushions, then, and not till then, other "old Convent girls." did her old friend venture to meet

Years ago Lady Abbess had learned care, almost within the shade of the to school and restrain her feelings ; sanctuary, was laid all that remained but the power of control almost of the elder Margaret FitzAllan, but entirely forsook her, and for one brief close to her heart Lady Abbess folded moment she staggered, overcome by the orphan Margaret, and in that emotion beyond her control. The wise and prudent care the girl was sight of that poor wasted face, the comforted and cheered. struggle of those feeble arms stretched out to meet and greet her, the almost still Madge lingered at St. Benedict's; childish joy expressed in that sweet but, what was stranger still, Mary familiar voice as she cried, "My lingered also. In spite of all the Marie! my friend! my mother!" kindness bestowed upon them both, Abbess for an instant there still dwelt in the woman' made Lady gasp and falter; but when she saw stubborn mind a mortal fear and the poor weak frame eink back com. dread of what those nuns might do pletely exhausted, she firmly drew with her young mistress. All the herself together and moved gently old tales in which she had heard and forward. One moment more and she read of poor innocent girls being was soothing the throbbing temples, caught and entrapped in the treach-

words of arous webs of nu comfort ; whilst over the invalid's imprisoned for life in dark dungeons, rose before her, and she mentally resolved that, come what might, she face stole a look of calm repose. A pair of lynx eyes had watched movement of the intruder, and would stay and defend her charge. "No. no." she pondered ; "they'll No, no," she pondered ; noted with suspicion the effect of her presence on her mistress. So when Lady Abbess gave the signal near. They'll be afraid of me, I that she wished to be alone with doubt me not." She little knew how her friend, Mary resisted it and far from the thoughts of either nuos remained. or Madge was this project. The You're not going to drive me out latter was enjoying herself thorof the room," she burst out defiantly. oughly. Rest ! rest ! oh, how com-"I've heard tell of nuns and their plete and well earned it was ! surgoings on. I'll have no superstitious rounded by genial companions, her incantations spoke over my lady. every necessary want supplied. The How could such a thing happen to Nuns, I doubt me not, are all very tears she shed for her mother were well in their way, but, in case they're chaste and sweet ; surely she could no better than they look, I'll remain not deny nor refuse that dear parent at me post, and leave no chance for the peace and happiness she felt foul play. certain was here at last. So health Remain where you are, by all and strength returned to her once means, my good woman," was the more. Father Egbertlistened with joy kind but dignified reply. "Mrs. to her rich young voice in the choir, FitzAllan is fortunate in having in rendered sweeter and more pathetic you so brave a champion, so true still from her three years' sojourn in the hard world ; and all flowed on as a friend ! Strangely appeased, the woman though those years had been but a retired to the farther end of the terrible nightmare. Lady Abbess was anxious that her room and seated herself, but where health should be completely restored, she could be a witness of all that and devised all manner of plans to occurred. It was not long ere the old rouse and cheer her. In fact, such familiar voice of Marie de Valois and kindness was lavished upon the girl her soothing influence restored peace that even the strong prejudices and and full consciousness to the poor suspicions of Mary began to relax, until at last, unconsciously to her-Mary stared in wonder sick lady. as she saw the look of rapturous joy self, they slowly but surely vanished take the place of the pained weary away. Often, with her knitting in one on her mistress's face, and heard her hand, Mary sat and smiled conthe two converse-seemingly forget tentedly as she watched with pleas ful of every one else—in low soft tones to each other. ure her young missress joining merrily in the fun and games of her

desire seems near its fulfilment. I long to die amongst you all. I cannot you again, dear Mother, and feel my end is drawing near. When Mary heard this she rose, feel-ing she had heard enough. Was it a pang of jealousy that sent that sharp spasm to her heart as she turning pale. Earl de Woodville is dead, and Beatrice is inconsolable, so writes lady mu her brother the Honorable Percy; and living. realized the wonderful power of this nun over her mistress ? or was it. he begs, oh so earnestly, for prayers for his father's soul, and the grace of caused by the fearful dread that she was no longer needed? "And I'd have done so much for her!" she thought, stealing gently from the "And I'd resignation for his sister." companion, with heartfelt sorrow. "Eyen she, you see, is not exempt room.

But the quick eye of the Abbess detached her movements, and as quickly divined the cause. from suffering; and she loved her father so dearly. Hers was a nature Mary !" she said, in her quiet

but authoritative tone. Ma'am ?" replied the woman, turn-

"It will," was the solemn and thoughtful reply. "And yet God ing as she reached the door. It is time your mistress had has ever His own designs, and we must bend to His decisions. We will some nourishmeat. No one understands her wants better than both write to her and pray most you do; will you come make her comfortable?" The and earnestly for her, poor dear child. The tear that stood in Mary's eye trembled as whole community shall beseech she walked forward to obey the nun; and whilst adjusting the pillows the poor invalid, slipped her wasted arms around the faithful servent's neck, and did what she had never

done before-drew the hard brown face down to her own radiant one, me to treat with her alone.' and kissed her again and again. " My dear, dear, faithful friend, discussing quietly with Lady Abbess she said, " when I am gone God will reward you for all your noble, unsel-

of Beatrice, she looked up suddenly fish devotion to me and mine." and remarked slowly, "I am strong and well now, dear Mother-thanks "Hush, my hinny! hush !" was to God and you-and must be look. poor thin form in her strong arms. "You'll stop with us awhile longer, ing about for some occupation. Do you not think so ?" " Soon, Mary, goon. Do not wish me to remain longer. I would rather

though wounded and go. I have been a great burden to " No, no, you could not be that

> more, left the room. But she was proud and happy now. Lady Abbess by her thought and tact had won Why linger over the end? It came

sooner than was expected, yet no one, not even Madge, would have have liked it-that our dear little Madga had a vocation for the religown time great happiness may yet life, death found her well prepared. felt sure that, with God's help, you where she was, and all that had Dear old Father Eghert visited her would be faithful in your hour of the same boat which conveyed occurred. The knowledge flooded frequently, and did all that was post trial."

smile of peace and happiness that to do ? For what am I fitted ?' to any lady, old or young. my child,' was the kind reply. "You are also resignation in death is a rare but a clever, trustworthy, and accombeautiful thing to witness, and the plished, and could take a good posi-Sisters who knelt around her bedside tion as governess in a high family. rather envied than wept for her. and full of peaceful hope were they as thing special ?" None whatever, dearest Mother. shady cemetery adjoining the Con-

It will be a terrible blow to her.'

unless it be for something in the musical line. But whatever you Within sound of the old vesper decide upon and arrange for me, bell, within reach of the Sisters' that will I do with all my heart.'

Then that is settled. Do worry yourself; rest here until I discover a suitable occupation for you. Only about your faithful servan*, what is to become of her ?' "It will relieve her mind," laughed

the girl merrily, " when I assure her that you have no desire or intention Days, even weeks, sped on, and of shutting me up for life, and then I really think she ought to return to her people in Yorkshire. Just faucy, strange as it may appear, my dear mother told me that a true and worthy man has waited for her all these years, but that she was not anxious to be married, and was more attached to us than to him, and so long as we needed her services she would not leave us ; but I can afford

the nun's features. On seeing Madge one of his years. How good of him the nun's features. On sector in the nur, to go." she raised her eyes and said gravely, to go." That same evening Madge sought That same evening Madge sought Catholic faith, Harvey." "Ob, of course, not altogether," he

great distress, my child. You must pray for har." "Who-what is it ?" gasped Madge, Abbess. The old servant saw the Mildred will be right in church matreason and sense of it, but wept when she realised that her young ters, as you will see. Especially with an angel mother like you to lady must henceforth earn her own guide us both. So don't talk of losing your boy, mother darling. You will simply have two children ador-

"Foor bairnie, poor bairnie," she will simply have two children ador-moaned, "what would thy grand ing you instead of one. No woman Poor bairnie, poor bairnie," she faither have said had he knowed his in the world "-and the young voice Poor dear Bertie!" exclaimed her darling would ever have come to grew suddenly firm and resolutethis ? Better almost be a nun," not even Mildred, could change me sighed. "Strange to say, this lot fo you." doesn't seem so bad ; and as for the Abbess, as you call her, my, but she's the tender reverence that had a fine woman. Anyhow, miss, I see marked his love for her ever since love so passionately, so deeply. I'll have to leave you ; but if ever his dying father had called the ten you should want for a home, look to year old boy to his side and left

And yet God Mary for it, for what I have is yours. O miss ! it cuts me to the heart to part with you !" and for once in her life the woman gave way to her feelalready turning in her heart, to the girl who claimed him-who would ings, and sobbing loudly, rocked her-She will need all our help. The self to and fro. Madge called her by many a fen-

hold him, not with the "pearl of Heaven in her behalf. Her whole der name, and kissed and fo ndled future may depend upon the spirit in the stiff upright figure, for she knew own which she receives this her first her hore ty and worth, and valued trial. My poor Beatrice! Run away, dear, and do your very best watched the strong, lithe young figure striding down the lilac-bor her as a tried and trusted friend. Had she not been faithful and true for your old companion, and leave when all else had forsaken them ? dered path, pausing at the gate to exand was it not only for her bairnie's A day or two later, as Madge was sake that she had broken down now?

There is but one thing for me to the present grief and future position do," said Mary, rising, and slowly unfolding the girl's arms from her neck. "I'll go right off tomorrow, the first thing in the morning ; and, what's more. I'll e'en travel as far as Edinburgh and collect together all your own little treasures and balong. I dread the thought of it, dear ings, and they shall abide with me, child, but suppose it must come sooner or later. You see "-stroking you'll write often to me, won't you ? kindly the soft fair cheek-" God And do not forget to tell me if you does not call every one to give up the want old Mary again. Whilst I live

with a slightly slowing step, she world and serve Him in religion. It is only in yellow backed novels," you, and a pair of hands to work for continued she, smiling, "never in real life, that you hear of these miss, that you'll try and keep your came on through the open door, the wide ball, into the room, dropping her flowers on the table, that she might clasp the watching figure by weary, disappointed maidens rush-ing into cloistered walls, hoping you parted with in London three arms. the window in her strong, loving thus to bury themselves and their years ago. Good may come out of troubles in lifelong oblivion. I that," she said gravely. "I have me never thought-much as I should own thoughts about it."

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The promise was gladly given. ious life; but I do think that in God's Mary arose, took a last and tender own time great happiness may yet farewell of her beloved mistress's be in store for you, dear, just as I grave, embraced her own bairnie once more, and was gone ; so that idlote! know-Well, Mother dear, what ought I Mary also, and a curiously worded do? For what am I fitted ?" epistle was posted in London that "You would be a nice companion night to Bracken Park, and contained these words :

" Mr. Blake-Dear Sir,-According to promise, I write to inform 300 that she as you wished to serve not stay or save. (and is a true lady born) has to earn What says my little Madge ? Have her own living now, and I am going you a desire or inclination for apy. back to my own people .- Yours truly, er's heart. MARY MEDCALF."

TO BE CONTINUED

THE PEARL OF PRICE

The lilacs were in bloom. They Mabel. hedged the quaint old garden, nodded under the moss grown gables, filled the soft May air with the first sweet

fragrance of spring. Their breath came through the of man? wide window where Elinor Whitely was sitting and seemed to mingle fitly with the story to which she was listening and which had brought a faint flush to her lance the the boy. Will you pray with me that to tremor to her lips. For what mother can hear with beart unstirred by in the story of her son's first deep "I will," said Mabel, kiesing her "I will," said Mabel, kiesing her

antly.

Harvey Whitely sat on a low stool at his mother's feet, his hands clasped on her lap, his uplifted face am just faking these flowers to our radiant with joy, as he poured forth

would say, "wisely;" it was time for him to marry; she must not

one to whom she had already given a

hopes-but that was all past now.

"Candles and incense are not lishments. They must be married in Mildred's own church, with the full choral service it would supply. The answered lightly, "still, they show a strong leaning to it, you know. Oh, reasonable and absurd and Harvey could not expect her to submit to them.

There had been more than one sad scene between mother and son, as Mabel knew, and her heart was heavy with forebodings of the break that must surely come. Late though it was, for Mabel's lov-

ing care of her altar followed a busy day as teacher, she turned out of her way to give the troubled mistress He lifted her hand to his lips with of "The Lilacs" a word of tender cheer.

Already a grim "For Sale" sign flaunting from the trunk of the horsechestnut beside the gate, told of the old home's doom. Two automo mother" to his care. And then, with an eager, buoyant biles were drawn up before the door step, he was gone-gone, as his mother felt, with the sword of loss there was an unusual air of excite ment that made the visitor push for ward with the freedom of an everwelcome guest.

Three or four gentlemen stood price," but a glittering bond all her within, pale and grave at the tidings they had brought.

Through tear-dimmed eyes she There had been an explosion in their laboratory, and young Harvey -Harvey had been hurt, hurt serious ly, if not fatally. Mabel caught the change gay greetings with a girl just murmured asides -- " mangled -coming in—a slender girl, gowned simply in white, her arms full of May seemed to die for a moment in her blinded-speechless"-and her heart breast.

For a moment they chatted blithely "Mabel! Mabel!" The mother's like the old friends they were; then cry aroused her and she dropped on Harvey went on, and Mable Doane her knees biside the couch where cry aroused her and she dropped on turned to the house, all unconscious the unhappy woman lay, stricker of the eyes fixed on her, the mether helpless by the shock. "Go to him look that had fallen upon the bright Faith, his Church, his God—in my face like a frost upon the spring name-for my sake-for his sake-Mabel.' But bravely and brightly, though

Through long, dim, dull ways, broken by faint gleams of conscious ness, Harvey was struggling back to life. Where he was, what had happened, he did not know. All was darkness. He lay swathed, blinded bandaged, a mere mummy of himself 'Harvey has just told me"-there -aware only of sensations, vague, was not a tremor in the clear tone. fleeting, undefined, too shadowy to Ob, it is hard on you, dear, very impress his shocked, bewildered hard, to give him up. There, there," brain. There had been a grave voice And early the following morning she drew the drooping head to her in his ear, whispering half-remem shoulder, "have your cry out in comfort; I'll never tell him. He anointing touch upon his hands, his thinks you don't mind-men are such feet, his brow; a faint stir in his soul But we know, dear, we as if it woke in response. Then-And Elinor clung to the brave, trembling cry that seemed to read then-a breath of fragrance, a low sweet speaker while the tears brave. trembling cry that seemed to rend forth unrestrained. Ab, yes, she love, his own, even in darkness like knew—she knew that her boy was floging away this pearl of price for a differing daway and she could a glittering gewgaw, and she could shadows deepened. He seemed to lose her in the gloom. He was sink And really it is time for Harvey ing in black waters, where only love to marry," continued Mabel, with could uphold him-the love that is tender cheer that wrung the listenstronger than death. And life surged "I have heard you tell up for a moment in his veins and him so yourselt more than once. his stiffened lips found gasping And so-so-we must brace up, speech: "My love-my own-are you cherie, and pray blessings on his there?" "Yes," came the low murmur in

We will-we will." there was a his dull ear, "bere at your side, quick note of hope in the other's Harvey." "I have not prayed enough "Stay with me-to-the end-'

I felt so sure of-of his love, he murmured. "To the end," came of his future, of-of"-she paused. the answer, and the gentle clasp on 'Ab, cherie"-there was a faint his hand seemed through long, long tremor in the tone that asked softly hours his only hold on life. Amid all " can one ever be sure of the love the horrors of pain and darkness he was conscious that Love was there 'Yes, my dear, yes," and the older watching, beseeching, agonizing for woman roused into strength and wis- him, upholding his own weakness in dom. "When it is guided, blessed, the struggl sanctified as Christian love should be. made alone the struggle he could never have

'Say that you love me," he faintly whispered, when the waters closed round about him. And the answer would come, sweet and low through

tear-wet face. "For your sake and for his own I will pray that Harvey's I will love you always, through life ATLANTIG GITY, N. J. and death."

ALAMA And so soothed and strengthened the jarred mechanism of his body today, though," the girl added to her took poise and spring again, self as, after another tender good bye brain roused, memory wakened, the she took her way back through the dulled senses quickened. Only garden gate from the old grey house darkness lingered and would not lift. among the lilacs, "it will take a Then the truth came upon him in all miracle of love, surely, to make its horror. He was blind! It flung him back into peril of death. Again. And while the prayers, freighted And again the soft hand was out with such silent heartbreak as only stretched to him and the low voice heaven saw, went up before Our whispered of love and hope, of cour-LOUIS SANDY Lady's flower decked altar, Harvey's age and submission-words that fell like half forgotten music on the If the diamond bond, that was all listener's ear. "Mildred," he called Mildred's own, draw her lover apars in sudden beside me?" There was a from the old ties with growing force, Mildred beside me?" There was a 'is it moment's pause. "No," came the low answer, "it is Mabel, Harvey. Your mother is ill and asked me to was on his young life, and in its come in her name, in her place." "And Mildred, Mildred ?" he ques tioned. There was no answer. "Is she dead-ill-hurt?" came In Where is Mildred ?' GORDON MILLS

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THE CATHOLIC RECORD

Mrs. FitzAllan's face looked bright companions. and beautiful, so Mary thought, as she listened to all the great, grand things that strange nun told her; when she heard the sick voice say in happy, cheerful tones, "Yes, Mother, I have endeavored so hard to be patient, and, oh, God has neen so good to me! Dear Duncan expression ; what can it be

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died in the most glorious sentiments She hurried forward, and soon my boy was taken in his youth and reached Lady Abbess's private apartinnocence ; and my girl, God bless ment. A letter in very deep mournher ! no one knows what she has been | ing lay upon the table, whilst a look of deep, sad sympathy lingered upon to me; and now my last earthly

to keep her no longer," sighed the girl, " and surely it is high time that both she and her steadfast admirer reaped the reward of all their fidel

ity and honor.' It is indeed, child. I have learned to admire and respect the woman-she has such noble qualities-and I truly appreciate her worth ; but in your new life you will not need her. Should you marry, dear child, and ever require her services, I believe she would go to the world's end to serve you."

"Marry? I marry, dearest Mother? me? Who would ever care to ask a with its triumph poor girl like I am to be his wife Oh no, I will not harbor the thought for a moment."

"Wise little maiden, not to build upon such follies," said the Abbess kindly. "Still, child, things quite as improbable have happened before sons; he had chosen, as the world now," and she looked into the depths of the clear grey eyes beside her, and thought how proud might any man interfere. True, there was onebe to win for life this brave, truehearted girl. "Oh! God grant," she that whatever the girl's prayed, lot in life may be, some one may be

cound who will value my Madge as she deserves !" A loud knock at the door an. hand upon her boy's brow. nounced a visitor, and old Father

nounced a visitor, and old Father Egbert entered, with a small travel-ling bag in his hand. "I have come to say au revoir," he exclaimed abruptly, "I shall be absent for a abruptly, "I shall be absent for a but during that time I have "Lose your boy? Mother my

becured a substitute. Pray for me, precious mother, how can you think both of you, that my errand may bs of such a thing?" The deep young voice was passionate in its protes After all that we have been to each

accompany you ?" she inquired anx iously. daughter—the daughter you have always wanted; you have often said 'No one," he replied. "I prefer that no home was complete without

going alone. God will take care of a girl. Mildred will be everything me. I leave early in the morning. you could ask, I know. True, she is he said again, and totnot exactly of our faith, but she is

very close. Lady Abbess looked at Madge. Poor old man," she said tenderly, How close, Harvey?" "Oh, very high-admires our ways "I am afraid I guess his errand, and immensely—believes in candles an the journey is long and tedious for incense, and all those things."

into the ear that had sympathized with his every joy and hope since life began, bis love tale. "She is all-more than all-I ever

dreamed-hoped for," he said exult-"She gave me such a pull for it that I can scarcely believe my own Mildred Earle fit in there.' good luck. But I am to take her the

ring tomorrow. I had a fancy that I would like to bind things with that big pearl of yours, that 'pearl of price,' as you said father called it engagement became a settled fact.

when he slipped it on your finger but Mildred seemed rather to prefer the usuals solitaire. She said-oh mother" - the young face flushed -"you can't think dreams to feel or know. The "light what beautiful things she said about that never shone upon sea or land " a bond that must be all our own." And again the rhapsodies burst forth, glamour all bounds and limits were filling the listener's heart with the lost.

The dinners, the drives, that demanded his presence and escort; the the sharp, agonizing query. dances that kept him up far into the God's name, tell me. Mabel. night! even the "Vesper Service" So much like your own, dear !'') on Sunday evenings, were claims that parents have taken her abroad. he felt unable to deny or resist.

daughter's place in her dreams-her The lilacs had dropped their frag rant blossoms; the June roses had So there was only tender love and glowed and paled on our Lady's altar, sympathy in her words, in her tone, and now Mabel was filling the vases in the soft, caressing touch of her with white chrysanthemums, the last spotless offering of the dying year. "It is right that you should marry A brave show the snowy bloss made against the background of

autumn leaves that the girl had gathered in the October woods. Never, even in all the glory and fragrance of June, had Our Lady's altar

looked more beautiful. And Mabel words anelt before it, conscious that the that lingered and swelled into fuller. bloom and joy and hope faded from her own life, but with no thought of deeper notes as the darkened days self in the prayer she breathed for went by. For in those days, Mabel Harvey's mother, on whom the frost was the life, the strength, of his of a wintry change was falling, hlighting all her autumn's tender broken home. It was Mabel whose tender care

glow.

won his mother back to hope and bealth; Mabel who found him a "The Lilacs" was to be sold. Harvey's promised bride could not place in her own school as teacher of bink of the place as a home, and his the science that had been his undosalary (he was chief chemist in a ing Mabel who first heard of the great commercial laboratory) did not great oculist, who had brought light permit of his maintaining two establinto darkness deeper than his

She is in Europe, Harvey. Her Habit Materials and Veilings

"To forget," he burst forth, hearsely. "She has gone from me to forget. And I thought, I thought that she was with me in my peril my agony. I thought her love was BLACK, WHITE, AND COLOURED holding me to life. I thought she was with me, faithful even to -God help me! It was all a dream

'All a dream," was the answer 'a fever dream. Let us forget it,

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