

THREE DAUGHTERS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

BY MRS. INNES-BROWN

CHAPTER XIX.

It was almost twenty-four years since last they parted, these two old friends... The bright warm sun had shown upon them as they stood bidding each other a fond farewell...

desire seems near its fulfillment. I long to die amongst you all. I cannot leave you again, dear Mother, and I feel my end is drawing near... When Mary heard this she rose, feeling she had heard enough...

the nun's features. On seeing Madge she raised her eyes and said gravely, "One who is dear to both of us is in great distress, my child. You must pray for her..."

one of his years. How good of him to go... "That same evening Madge sought Mary and recounted to her the purport of her conversation with Lady Abbess... "Poor dear Bertie!" exclaimed her companion...

"Candles and incense are not Catholic faith, Harvey... "Oh, of course, not altogether," he answered lightly... "I'll have to leave you; but if ever you should want for a home, look to Mary for it..."

shments. They must be married in Mildred's own church, with the full choral service it would supply... "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..."

Early the next morning, upon the puzzled ear of the invalid fell the old familiar sounds of the angels bell. She opened her eyes and listened. Then there rushed upon her mind the full realization of where she was, and all that had occurred...

Why linger over the end? It came sooner than was expected, yet no one, not even Madge, would have had things altered. There is something grand and consoling in a death like Mrs. Fitz Allan's...

"Well, Mother dear, what ought I to do? For what am I fitted?" "You would be a nice companion to any lady, old or young, my child," was the kind reply...

TO BE CONTINUED THE PEARL OF PRICE The lilacs were in bloom. They hedged the quaint old garden, filled under the moss grown gables...

"We will—we will," there was a quick note of hope in the other's voice. I have not prayed enough, Mabel, I felt so sure of his love...

"Yes," came the low murmur in his dull ear, "here at your side, Harvey." "Stay with me—to the end—" he murmured. "To the end," came the answer, and the gentle clasp on his hand seemed through long, long hours his only hold on life...

Years ago Lady Abbess had learned to school and restrain her feelings, but the power of control almost entirely forsook her, and for one brief moment she staggered, overcome by emotion beyond her control...

Days, even weeks, sped on, and still Madge lingered at St. Benedict's; but, what was stranger still, Mary lingered also. In spite of all the kindness bestowed upon them both, there still dwelt in the woman's stubborn mind a mortal fear and dread of what those nuns might do with her young mistress...

"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 own 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..."

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