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dwell upon the indiscretion of your mother's conduct," Mrs. Harold con-tinued, "or to condemn her duplicity. ried privately at the nearest village. Great was the grief and disappointment of her deceived parents, who age, he caused the marriage to be anulled by law, and brought her home The unhappy young man, who was delicate and subject to heart disease, did not survive the excitement many months. As for your mother, she was treated with a severity which was cruel and hardened instead of leading her to repentance. When her child was

Edith started, but Mrs. Harold laid calming hand upon her shoulder. "It was a boy, my dear, and that was thirty years ago. The baby was sent away to the care of those who engaged child as their own. Your mother never saw the little one's face. All was hushed up, ner many from the scene tion and moved away from the scene of his daughter's shame. And she grew up proud and resentful and bitter against her relatives, though they now did leverything in their power to meet him. Swiftly his eye glanced along the crowded pews, till it rested upon the figures of four persons, a white haired old man, and three ladies, way to have mourning. hushed up, her father sold his plantayears later she met my brother. She was a brilliant woman then, no expense having been spared to give her every worldly advantage. She was the belle of Westerly when he first saw her and paid her attentions. They were married, and if ever a redeeming opportunity entered the life of any woman it was at that moment, for she loved your father devotedly, so devotedly that she felt that every inci-dent in her past life should be revealed. His jealousy of her, added to these compunctions of conscience, yet made her afraid to tell him the truth. Col. Harold was fiving in Westerly at the time, and I saw a great deal of your mother. She was exceedingly fond of me, too, and shortly before your birth she confessed to me the trouble that weighed upon her spirits, and asked my advice. I urged her to tell my brother all, and end her distress. Is felt sure that she could trust his affection to pity more than cordemn, but the rigorous school in which she had been brought up made her pitifully fearful. She vacillated weakly in her determination, postponing the trial from day to day, and so lost the most favorably opportunity to make the disattribute your moods of de pression, my love, to direct inheritance of your mother's state of mind at that of your mother's state of mind at that time.) All this secrecy ended in estrangement from her husband, for though she could not herve herself to tell him, the deceit she practiced haunt ed her. For awhile she was possessed ed her. For awhite she was possessed with a Contic desire to find her lost child, but all her search only gained the information that the bcy had run away from the guardianship to which he had been entrusted. This was a new source of unhappiness to your mother, and at last she began to stifle

come, dear, there is the tea bell. We will not keep them waiting, and all this is between ourselves." "I don't want anything to eat, Aunt Amy. I don't feel right in my head; it is so queer-I can't-I can't think at

conscience by a fashionable life, and became reconciled to the child's disap-

pearance, hoping and praying, as she told me afterwards, that death had re-

moved the witness to her folly. But

"My poor child, don't try to think; lie down here, and try to rest."

Edith obeyed in silence, but when Mrs. Harold had left her, with a kiss, and marmured prayer for God's blessing and protection upon her, she buried her face in the pillow and wept from a painful sense of sympa-thy. When Mrs. Harold returned, an hour later, she found her in a strangely excited state, her pulse quick, her words wild and feverish. Alarmed by the repeated questions if it really were all true, mingled with incoherent refdown beside her and vainly strove to divert her mind to calming thoughts. The morbid condition had continued too long, reaction set in with violence, and the over-strained system could find relief only by venting its pent up forces upon the brain. Her aunt had nursed hrough sickness before, but never during one of those doubly alarming cases where the mind had been the source of the disorder. All night she watched ere the mind had been the source of over the increasing delirium, and none could appreciate the gravity of the ordeal save those who have been situ-ated in a similar desolate position, the

nearest physician five miles away.

The anxiety of those days cannot be described, when Steele's face became a daily visitor, and he and Mrs. Harold, daily visitor, and he and Mrs. Harold, feeling that all might have been avoided, with useless self reproach and aching hearts, well nigh despaired of the life of the sufferer, while Mr. and Mrs. White anxiously discussed the strain that Amy was enduring, and Juliet mored about longly and misarable at

moped about, lonely and miserable at being excluded from the sick room, where she was positively sure she could be of service.

When, after six weeks, the fever burned itself out, and Edith's natural strength of constitution prevailed, she woke to consciousness, frail and fair as any lily, too weak to talk or think, and lay in restful passivity in an atmosphere of gentle words and kindly attentions. Mr. White never failed to bring home some wild flowers from his walk around the plantation, his wife exerted all her skill in preparing dainty dishes, and Juliet checked her noisy enthusi-asm, to amuse her, and told her daily how beautiful she looked, comically de-

dured to be as lovely and have such

transparent hands.
Mrs. Steele and Mabel came, also, to She suffered enough to expatiate the fault. Infatuated by the romance of believing herself in love, she consented to his proposition, and they were martillege.

Cheer the weakness of her convalence, and the pastor never failed in his constant visits, but from them all Edith's eyes would ever wander back and the pastor never failed in his constant visits, but from them all Edith's eyes would ever wander back. cheer the weakness of her convaito the sweet, pale face that had watched beside her during all those long nights of anxiety, untiring, and rest on were ambitious that their promising it with a soothing pleasure in its pres laughter should make a fine match. In ence, for it had become a necessary anger her father pursued the runaway part of her existence, and she had grown accustomed to fall asleep with her hand clasped in her aunt's and wake to find her there.

CHAPTER XVII.

EGERTON HEARS THE VOICE OF AN ANGEL. It was Sunday, a day of rest in every ense of the word, no sound breaking the stillness of the air save the hum of insects about the flower gardens of Dayton. The streets were almost deserted, for the church bells had long ceased ringing, and the devout inhabitants of the village were assembled in the various places of worship, when a solitary stranger emerged from the Tobin hotel, walking with nervous to keep the matter quiet, and treat the child as their own. Your mother never train, and his brow had a careworn, anxious expression. At the entrance of St. Stephen's chapel he paused and one of them dressed in deen mourning. The form he sought was not there. A sickening dread swept through his frame, and he leaned for support against the pillar, which screened him from the view of the pulpit.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth," was borne to his ear from with imitation under the solemn admo nition. A hush followed, and then the organ broke in upon the stillness with a deep throb of music. As the slow rolling notes vibrated through his being, he thought with a suffocating sensation of how she had told him that she loved their lengthened melancholy. There came a pause in the thrilling music, then its deep chords were repeated, and a voice well known, yet as an angel's voice above his head, seemed to float down from Heaven on the wings of song.

Oh how distinct were the words as he followed each accent of the beloved utterance:

"Still, still with Thee when purple morning breaketh When the bird waketh and the shadows flee

Alone with Thee-The voice faltered, and there was a world of hidden agony beneath the beauty of its articulation.

"Amid the mystic shadows The solemn hush of Nature newly born Alone with Thee.' And the word rung with the ecstacy of a soul that rose superior to the sens

of isolation in the grandeur of that

Loneliness.

Alone with Thee in breathless adoration In the calm dew and freshness of the morn, As in the dawning o'er the waveless ocean, The image of the morning star doth rest So in this stillness Thou beholdest only Thine image in the waters of my breast." So shall it be at last in that bright morning.

When the soul waketh and life's shadows flee Oh in that hour fairer than daylight dawning Shall rise the glorious thought, I am with Thee The sweet voice died suddenly away but the ecstacy of triumph seemed to linger and echo through the arches werhead as the exalted strains rever-

berated in the hearts of their hearers in the still silence that ensued, but t that listener without their melody told a tale of pitiless self-abnegation, their beauty was as the voice of the swan, weetest in the pangs of death.

He could not stay when the sermon commenced, but hurried out into the which spoke of agony conquered, de-sire ended, but at what cost? He might

street, again haunted by those notes not see again the girl, the trembling clinging child his heart remembered for behold, a scraph had answered him from the distance of imeasurable space that his pity was not required. Hers lation was accorded; and though his ardent desire to behold her beloved face once more was ungranted, Dr. Egerton proceeded on his way to Florida that night as he intended. Steele's sermon was not long that Gay, but how much its fervent delivery was

inspired by the offertory hymn was the

minister's own secret.

Mrs. Harold paused at the foot of the stairs that led to the choir, as her niece came down, accompanied by the fair-haired young tenor, who ardently admired her voice. Edith was more than beautiful that morning, in her simple white dress. The pale pink roses on her breast were less delicate in hue than the faint color in he cheeks, while the eyes that looked out from her spirituelle face seemed to have grown larger and deeper. With a gracious nod of dismissal to her escort, she passed her arm through her aunt's and joined the rest of their party, who waited, surrounded by their acquaintances, in cheerful interchange of greeting. For each Edith had a word, a smile of recognition, but once seated in the carriage, after a few solicitous cares that Mrs. Harold was well wrapped up, she leaned back silent, while her face settled into a

submissive tranquility. Six months had elapsed since the events recorded in the last chapter, and the tamult of emotion which yet surged within her breast had been trained never to appear upon the placid surface.

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who will be pleased to answer you fully and give you the best advice It will cost you nothing. If you would prefer, come and see them at their offices. In the meantime send us your name on a postal card and we will mail to your address, free, our doctor's book. Pale and Weak

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"There are feelings which last on in spite of all struggles to quench them, I suppose, because they ought to last, because while they torture they will ennoble." So wrote one of the truest of Christians, one of the wisest and purest of English divines, who taught that the meaning of the strange riddle of life is concealed in an infinite Pa-tience. God only knows why our heartaches are sent to us, the myste rious longing for some one apart from the sphere of our daily surroundings, or when such an attachment is once in-troduced into a life, all other joys are insipid and dull by comparison, and

he soul refuses to be comforted. But with Edith this craving had not been indulged. Had she fought less hard, indeed, desire had perhaps sided sooner, in despairing recognition of the unattainable. But she had beat against the bars of her own love, desperately, resolved upon freedom, even taking a fierce pleasure in the pain her own blows inflicted; for pain and pleasure at their zenith present that strange phenomenon of resemblance produced

by the sensations of intense heat and cold, and the martyr has been known to smile while the flames encircled him. The exultaion of her victory was that she could smile on the pain that duty inflicted, transforming it to rapture, and the result of those solitary con-flicts was that the unsatisfied yearning of her heart lavished its strong flood in kindly consideration, in little acts of tenderness that shed a heaven of love upon those who surrounded her. Patient, ch erful, devout, thus was the tenor of her daily life, and not in

active in its piety, for recognizing that their circumstances were altered, she determined not to be a burden, and as oon as she recovered from her violent illness, insisted upon doing something for her own support. Perceiving that a sense of Lidependence would be a comfort, while the occupation would give employment to her mind, Mr. Steele exerted his influence to obtain for her the position of teacher in the county school. The old Methodist chapel, which was used for this purpose, was distant haif a mile from Mrs. Harold's home, but Edith did not object to the loneliness of her walk. After the passive indifference of convalescence, memory had revived with acute suffering, and the knowledge hat her whole sed experience had been reveated in her hours of delirium was a stinging torture, which made her shrink from the familiar faces and look upon her school duties as a blessed means of escape. She was fond of children, and while surrounded by their innocent prattle, her individual trials were in a measure dispelled. She was very patient with their duliness, and reach as the country urchins were, a certain loyalty sprung up in their midst toward the geutle teacher, the least rudeness to her being resented by the whole school. Often when less sons were over she would gather her pupils about her for a story, the promise of which had maintained order and bedience all day better than any severity. Sixteen-year-old Steve, clumsy and ly out of place among the first primarignorant, whose long limbs looked odd scholars, was her devoted slave, be-cause she did not laugh at him for his stupidity, and always encouraged him to persevere in learning to read whenever he bashfully escorted her home on dark winter evenings.

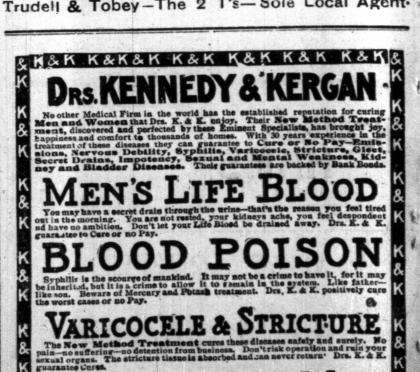
Besides the care of her school, an other source of interest was opened to Edith. When Mr. Steele came to announce that St. Stephen's choir had sustained the loss of 'ts contralto, and to ask if the girl would consent to fill the vacancy, she readily consented, re joicing to be able to prove to him her gratitude by this service.

To be Continued.

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