

THE  
CANADIAN MONTHLY  
AND NATIONAL REVIEW.

VOL. 10.]

AUGUST, 1876.

[No. 2

AS LONG AS SHE LIVED. \*

BY F. W. ROBINSON,

*Author of "Anne Judge, Spinster," "Grandmother's Money," "Poor Humanity," "Little Kate Kirby," &c.*

BOOK II.

A FALLEN FORTUNE.

CHAPTER III.

THE END OF THE VISIT.

THE Reverend Gregory Salmon and his son Angelo left the shadow of the trees and the society of the cows, for a quiet walk along the banks of the river. There was much for the father to explain, and at the outset there was more difficulty than the senior Mr. Salmon had expected. He was not so sure of his son as he had been half an hour since—or rather, for the first time in his life he distrusted his influence over a weak and impressionable young man. He began as if he doubted him and the strength of his own influence together.

"Angelo," he said, "we have been labouring under a terrible delusion, and I hope you see that as clearly as I do."

"I do not see anything very terrible at present," said the son.

"I am dreadfully shocked."

"I was never happier in my life," said Angelo, pressing his hand on his waistcoat pocket, wherein was Mabel's purse, which was as close to his heart as he could get it at present.

"I am talking about Miss Westbrook," said the father sharply.

"So am I."

Mr. Salmon was unprepared for these ready answers, and marvelled what had become of that slow, hesitating manner for which Angelo had been invariably distinguished. He did not affect to be surprised, however, but after a glance askance at his son, went on in the same pompous way.

"I have been having a serious discussion with your mother concerning the fact of Miss Westbrook's loss of fortune—if she ever had any fortune," he added, "and we both arrived at the conclusion that it will be infinitely better for that young lady to leave St. Lazarus as soon as possible."

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