

Poetry.

THE TWO GLASSES.

There sat two glasses, filled to the brim,
On a rich man's table, rim to rim.
One was ruddy and red as blood,
And one as clear as the crystal flood.

Said the glass of wine to the paler brother,
"Let us tell the tales of the past to each other."
"I can tell of banquet and revel mirth,
And the proudest and grandest souls on earth."

Fell under my touch as though struck by lightning,
When I was a king, I ruled in might.
From the heads of kings I have torn the crown,
From the heights of fame I have hurled men down.

I have blessed many an honored name,
I have turned virtue and given shame.
I have tempted youth with a sin, a taste,
That has made his future life a waste.

For greater than a king am I,
Or than any army beneath the sky.
I have made the world of the drive fall
And sent the train from the iron rail.

I have made good ships go down at sea,
And the shrieks of the lost were sweet to me.
I have beheld how great you be,
Fame, strength, wealth, genius, before you.

For you might and power are over all,
"Ho! Ho! Ho!" pale brother, laughed the wine.
"Can you boast of deeds as great as mine?"

Said the water glass, "I cannot boast
Of a thing of mine, or a man of mine,
But I can tell of a thing that is true,
By my crystal drops made light and glad."

Of things I've quenched, of brows I've leaved,
Of hands I've cooled, and souls I've saved;
I've leaped through the valley, dashed down the mountain,
Flowed in the river and played in the fountain.

Slept in the sunshine and dropped from the sky,
And everywhere I've gladdened the landscape and eye.

I have eased the hot forehead of fever and pain,
I have made the parched meadows grow
Fertile with grain.

I can tell of the powerful wheel of the mill
That grinds out four and turned at my will.
I can tell of manhood crowned by you,
That I lifted up and crowned with me.

I have, I help, I strengthen and aid;
I gladden the heart of man and maid;
I feed the wine glass captive free,
And all are better for my love.

These are the tales they told each other,
The glass of wine and the pale brother,
As they sat together filled to the brim,
On the rich man's table rim to rim.

RETRIBUTION.

CHAPTER XXI.

"I SHALL CONQUER IN THE END!"
The fashionable world had its day of
gossip—the nine days' wonder, raged for
a while, and then gradually died away.

New actors came upon the stage of
polite society, to attract the attention of
the public, and the strange termination
of a wedding, which had caused so much
of a sensation, and which had seemed to
promise so much for the future, became
a shame of the past, and, if not forgotten
was at least ignored.

For three long weeks after that terrible
fall Nina Leicester lay upon a sick bed.
She was no fever—she had no disease
of any kind; so the physicians who attended
her said, but she lay like one stricken with
death.

Her vital forces seemed to have been
paralyzed—some great mental shock had
come, they said, and, time, the great
healer, would alone show whether she
would recover or not.

Her lips were sealed on the subject of
the strange dream which had ended so
disastrously to all her hopes.

The world gave no explanation of Lord
Malcolm's strange disappearance, nor of
her own sufferings, nor listen to any
conversation whatever upon the subject.

To her mother, who begged and pleaded
to know the secret of her desertion
and wretchedness, she simply said:

"He has gone—he believes me utterly
false to my vows. I can tell you nothing
more, and no arguments could extract
anything more from her."

Kenneth had disappeared, leaving no
clue as to his future movements, and
in addition, excepting a note telling the Earl
of Durward that he intended traveling for
an indefinite period, and would write him
further in the future.

Caroline also was stretched upon a sick
bed, stricken with brain fever in its worst
stage, brought on by "over-study and ex-
citement," was the wise conclusion of a
prolonged medical consultation. But the
poor girl's parents knew that her brain
was turned by the despair of a hopeless
love, and their wrath against her and
stronger every day against the innocent
cause of her suffering.

She babbled day and night of being so
happy, wedding guests were always happy,
of flowers made from heart's blood to deck
wedding robes, of a ring, ring, ring, ring,
tossed by the despair of a hopeless
love, and their wrath against her and
stronger every day against the innocent
cause of her suffering.

"Then, madam," he said, determined
that she should never hear the name she
desired from his lips, "to return to your
request, I must observe that I consider it
undecent to give you the Earl of Mel-
rose's name."

"But I insist upon it—that is, if you
know it yourself," she said, as the sus-
picion crossed her mind that he might
also be in ignorance of Kenneth's where-
abouts.

He colored at her words, for, although
he had recently received one letter from
the young wife, he had given him no sign
as to where a reply might reach him, and
he was therefore as much in the dark as
Nina herself.

But he would not own it to her; he was
determined to make her write beneath the
force of his power; to humiliate her,
if possible, as he had pretended.

"It really pains me to decline," he
said; "but my judgment tells me that it
is best for you to hold no communication
with Lord Malcolm in the present state
of his feelings toward you. But I am
glad, on the whole, that you called to-day,
as I have a little matter of business to
attend to."

"He passed to note the full effect of
his words, for he anticipated the reception
which the proposal he was about to make
would receive.

"His lordship," he resumed, regretted
the necessity which drove him away just
as a date when he was anticipated so
much; but, rising above his own feelings,
he desired to do the right thing by you,
and has authorized me to make out the
necessary papers for a settlement of two
thousand pounds annually upon you, that
you need not be entirely disappointed of
your expectations."

The young wife's face flushed a sudden
scarlet, then took on the hue of death,
as these cruel words.

Two thousand pounds annually?
What did it mean? Kind Heaven,
what did those four words mean?

For a moment she thought her senses
must fail her; it was more than she could
bear.

She had built upon the hope of writing
to Kenneth, making everything plain, and
then felt sure that he would hasten back
with her open arms, and ready to sue
for forgiveness for having so wronged her.

Madam complied with her desire, glad
to see a little life returning to her dar-
ling. The answer came at once, short, curt,
unmistakable with something of triumph
and spite in its tone.

"Since his lordship did not see fit to
himself to instruct you with his address, I
must also decline giving it."

"This was all, but it was enough to
induce a shivering which which she had
never dreamed of, preceding before.

She said nothing upon perceiving the re-
ply, but a look of resolve settled over her
pale face, and she leaped into her
bed and eyes.

A week later she insisted upon being
dressed to go out, and requested that a
carriage be ordered for her accompani-
ment.

"Where are you going, Nina?" asked
madam, wondering at the look of pro-
test upon her white face.

"To call on his lordship the Earl of Dur-
ward," was the quiet reply.

"He is not at home," said the color, and
a look of trouble spring to her face, and
eyes.

"Are you wise to do so?" she asked
anxiously.

"Mamma, I must have Kenneth's ad-
dress," the young wife said, nearly losing
herself in command, "I must write to him
before he leaves home about something
concerning which I alone can set him
right."

"What is he mistaken about? Nina,
what is this fearful thing which is likely
to happen to you?"

"I cannot tell you, mamma—I can tell
no one until Kenneth is at peace with
me. I will not try to vindicate myself in
the sight of any one until he excuses me
from all that he believes against me."

She stopped suddenly.

By his unjust suspicions and accusations.
But this matter of his own vanity revealed
something entirely different.

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"I do not believe Lord Malcolm has
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"Perhaps you would like to see the
letter in which he speaks of it," his lord-
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at her words.

The truth of the matter was, that Ken-
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The act destroyed her fond hope, and
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Lifting her head with an air of hauteur,
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"You can save yourself all trouble in
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"I think you are unwise, madam. Per-
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But he proceeded, determined that she
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"Well, my lord?"

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