By the author of "Kate's Terrible Cousin," "
Stewards of Abbevlands." etc.

When a boy he ran away from school; his second term. Before he was twenty he quarreled with his father, left his home in happy and contented as it was possible for a confirmed vagrant to be; years exhausted his credit and wore out the patience of his friends; so, when there were confiding cousins to pay his debts, people be.

Not the least charm about Rex was his capacity for making himself at home wherever he went. Before he had called half a dozen times at the house in Newburn street confiding cousins to pay his debts, people be-

shirt sleeves, smoked incredible quantities of tobacco, consumed innumerable glasses of offenses by marrying one of his models. This carpetless stairs, brushes and palette were the final threads that still bound fiung aside, Pierce's pencils were thrust into his family. His mother, whose favorite he was, died because of it; his elder and only brother found it necessary to travel for the next seated himself in the old American threads the results of the pupil cordially.

Then Rex seated himself in the old American threads the results of the pupil cordially.

Then Rex seated himself in the old American threads the results of the pupil cordially.

Val even his blessing; Jasper, his son, reigned in his stead at Lisle Hall, married val even his blessing; Jasper, his son, drama, as well as their own profession, while reigned in his stead at Lisle Hall, married Pierce, on a low stool in front of the fire, the only daughter of Lord Torpor, and lived with a volume of The Modern Painters—as a respected and intensely respectable conditions and intensely respectable listened to the conversation, and sometimes

Newburn Street remained an alien and an outcast from his family, Disappointed, seedy and solitary, he smeked his "canister" and Pierce—the happiest she had ever known. Yes, poor Val Lisle, after nearly twenty

years, was a failure, a vagrant and Bohemian. Diana, his "model" wife, after growing coarse, stout and a trifle shrewdish, had suc cumbed to the difficulties of her position She slept in the calm seclusion of Abney Park Cemetery, where five little Lisles were already under five unostentations green spite of them, Val regretted her sincerely. To finished, and Mr. Davenant gave the artist a the last hour of her life the contour of her cheque for sixty guineas—the largest sum head and the turn of her throat were models that any painter might have been proud to copy; though towards the end they were with the money—refurnish their apartments, more appropriate for a Juno than a Venus if indeed they did not leave Newburn street more appropriate for a Juno than a Venus. Though her voice was shrill and rather highpitched, and her temper at the best of times rather variable, she had her good points, and one of them was a talent for house-keeping. She made her husband's odd guineas go as far as anybody could, and always managed somehow to secure a maxi-mum of ailment with a minimum of expenditure. When she was gone, Va missed the savory and appetising stews which burn street was kept together so long. But Mrs. Lisle's management was wonderful; the bargains she secured were almost incredible and, when she died, Val missed her solely

and mourned her sincerely.

He had no one in the world then but Persephone, an olive-skinned, hazel-eyed girl of fifteen, straight-limbed, slender, graceful, with thick curling lashes to her great eyes and black hair curling over her head and shoulders. Call a girl Persephone, but it is unreasonable to expect her to be like other girls. Valentine Lisle, being in some respects a not unreasonable man, saw the force of this; and he did not expect his girl to be in the smallest degree useful, or like what forget Jane, Emmie or Polly might have been, away? Sometimes he feared she was not even going plexion was frequently of the hue of yellow glad, quick flush. plexion was frequently of the flut of first of the color of the flut of the color of the co

smattering of French, German and Italian. Every one humored and gave way to her; and, as the little brothers and sisters one after another died, her father and mother more than ever indulged, spoiled, praised and take great care of yourself while I am away.

Interesponding the complete complete complete completely.

"You must not work too hard, petite," he lonely and sad; and for the first time in her said, stroking her hair fondly. "You must life she felt a wild craving for affection—some more than ever indulged, spoiled, praised and street. If Pierce—so they called her—wished thing I want you to wear always for my sake. for silence it was the signal for an abrunt Will you, little one?" for silence, it was the signal for an abrupt will you, little one?"

**Yes, always, with pleasure, Rex. Oh, how lovely!"—as he placed in her hand a the parlor. If Pierce wanted vaint or pencil, pen or paper, her need always charmed the locket set with diamonds. "Oh, Rex, how dress entered the room—the grandest-looking." lling from her mother's somewhat beautiful!" closely-kept purse.

Pierce Lisle was not a very loving or nerhaps a very lovable child. Hers was a firm, resolute, self-contained nature, neither seeking sympathy nor giving affection. Her arms to his knee, clung to his neck, or used any other childish arts to gain any pleasure or included the care of your care of

From the very first father and mother tac | merrie Christmas.' itly consented to give way to Pierce; for they felt they could not hold out against the resolution expressed by the sternly-contracted times till we meet." brows and compressed lips of a child who bore that was unreasonable.

Once, about a year after his wife's death, Val Lisle turned to his daughter for comfort and consolation. He tried to pour his wrongs, needs and difficulties into her ear, as he had done into her mother's; but the girl shrugged her shoulders a little contemptuously and

"Why don't you try to get pupils, papa?"

wonderful to say, got one. Then Pierce roused herself, laid aside her dreaminess and selfishness, and made the second floor in Newburn Street seem more like home to the poor vagrant artist than it had ever seemed before.

which gladdened the heart of her father for it made her wonderfully beautiful, and beauty as oft flush in her usually colorless cheeks, a carpet and rickety furniture, would, she her to pass out; while Ethel directed her gleam of brightness in her dark hazel eyes, thought, be quite out of keeping. gleam of brightness in her dark hazel eves. music in her voice, and lightness in her step artist's daughter to the girl herself.

twenty, with frank sunny blue eyes, fair hair going to choose the black silk dress which and it curling closely round his head, a heavy fair her father insisted she should have. It was tiful." monstache, beautifully white even teeth, and all so dehghtful, so different from how things "W

an honest, resolute, good humored chin. His face was not a particularly handsome. striking, or intellectual one; hundreds like it are to be seen in every town in England: Valentine Lisle was a vagrant; his whole but it was pleasant, honest, and radiant with from which she was aroused by the sound of life had been one long violation of all social kindliness. One would never have taken Rex several heavy footsteps on the stairs and a Davenant for the hero of a romance, nor great commotion outside the door. and when a student he was politely requested have fancied him, in any circumstances, doing to withdraw from his university at the end of anything desperate; he was simply a good anything desperate; he was simply a good looking, healthy, happy young gentleman, with a loval, lovable, truthful nature and a consequence, and adopted art as a profession. pardonable craze for painting "muddled" pic-For a time he got on splendidly, and was as tures in water colors. He could afford to dawdle with art, being tolerably rich, not extravagant but a few and possessed of splendid expectations.

Then he settled down to work, lodged on the great delight of Pierce's life was to the second floor of a great gloomy house in make the parlor pleasant for him. He had one of those melancholy streets in the vicinity of the Middlesex Hospital where artists of a certain class dearly love to congregate, were a few months, he dropped in a few months he dropped in a few month he seemed to belong to the place; and gan to regard him with suspicion.

Then he settled down to work, lodged on the great delight of Pierce's life was to a huge beard, sat or stood all day in his a matter of course. He ordered a pair of pio tures for his chambers in Serjeants' Inn, and Val worked hard at them; but, when the arbeer, and finally capped the climax of his tist heard Rex's light step on the echoing

only brother found it necessary to travel for two years after hearing of the calamity; and his father formally disinherited him, without even the customary, though not value on the customary, though not value on the customary on the other side of the company on the other side of the customary. very consolatory, shilling.

After a time old Sir Jasper was gathered to his fathers, without bestowing on vagrant and criticised literature, music, and the ready. drama, as we las their own profession, while The bearded and Bohemian painter of astonished both her father and his pupil by

drank his ale in the shade of his dingy She was often at a loss to account for the studio, surrounded by grand pictures—historical pieces, ideal pieces, landscapes, heads life, and the new beauty she found in every-after every imaginable artist, studies from the studies from th me and death—which were to make his fortune, but somehow, did not. Still he worked away industriously, tolerably cheerful in the midst of his difficulties, and astonishingly confident of the success of next vear after the Davenant paid liberally for his lessons, and brought him various small commissions, such with restless impatience for the reply.

It came at length, after a weary fortnightas fans and hand-screens to be painted, which were in a much more flourishing condition

Newburn street.

Just before Christmas the pictures were Just before Christmas the pictures were finished, and Mr. Davenant gave the artist a cheque for sixty guineas—the largest sum Val had ever received for a pair of pictures in It was very hard to go away from Newburn ltogether and seek some pleasanter locality, buy himself a new ulster, Pierce a black silk

Rex Davenant was going away for a month; and on Christmas Eve he called to say good and, when that was spent, what was she to bye to them. Val was out and Pierce was do? She had not the least idea how she bending over her drawing, giving the last could turn her talent for painting to account touches to a perfect little sketch which she and make money by her drawings. If Rex she concocted for supper, missed the tasty bloater she always endeavored to secure for his breakfast, missed more than all her daily the fire, Mr. Davenant in the American rock. that she had better go to Lisle Hall and acand nightly homily on the utterly ruinous ing-char on the other, and Pierce herself cept the cold hospitality of her uncle.

tate of their finances and the impossibility seated in front. her face shaded with her hand,

Late one evening, towards the end of Januof their holding out any longer. Indeed it and The Modern Painters on her knee. Rex ary, she arrived, cold, weary and wretched, at was a marvel how the shabby home in New took up the drawing and glanced at it, first Lisle Hall, after a long journey in a third-

sketch is simply perfect—the likenesses are and the servant who opened the door looked unmistakable. You will make your fortune at her superciliously as he showed her into as a portrait-painter one day, and then you the library, and said he would see that his will win fame as an artist. What are you going to do with this?"

Total and the superior and the superior

sharp, her shoulders narrow, and her comshall ce quite content," replied Pierce, with a lite beautiful texture of the dress and should be beautiful texture of the old "point" to

were much better; she wrote poetry by the ream, red romances by the score, and had except by a silence more eloquent than words, Pierce looked at him, but did not answer, and with an expression of shy happiness in smile winning and pleasant; but the her eyes; but it seemed to satisfy Rex compoor tired, shivering orphan felt a managed to pick up, no one knew how, a and with an expression of shy happiness in

petted the somewhat selfish and imperious. You must not spoil your eyes by painting too only a dog. But her stiff bow and admission little lady who, by the right divine of genius, much or reading at night. And, Pierce, I of fatigue expressed nothing of her real feelreigned over the second floor in Newburn have brought you a Christmas present - some lings. She was even less demonstrative in

pretty enough for you. Nothing in the world is," he declared, looking with admiration at the lovely radiant little face. "Pierce, Pierce when you leave the selitude and seclusion of "Not dressed—and dinner will be anything the lovely radiant little face." Newburn Street and go into the world, you nounced in ten minutes! How is it Miss were never thrown caressingly around her mother's neck, her lips were never pressed will do some awful damage; something terril Lisle was not shown to her room at once coaxingly to her father's, she never climbed ble is sure to happen!" And he laughed Ethel?" he said coldly. merrily. "Now good-bye, my child; take care of yourself and the dear pater till I come other childish arts to gain any pleasure or in. care of yoursen and the dear pater in a come dulgence, possibly because all her wishes back. Only a few short weeks and then we'll terr were cranted as soon as they were expressed, begin our magnificent picture of 'The Last of the the Mohicans.' Good-bye, little gipsy, and 'a Lisle!'

every childish malady with the fortitude of only eleven minutes left to drive to Euston an adult, and was never heard to express a and my cabby must be frozen with waiting. wish that was impracticable or a complaint Good-bye, petite." And Rex pressed his lips lightly to the upturned, smiling, blushing face, and rushed out of the room and down-tian!"

> into his train without a ticket, and have his years." portmanteau flung after him at random; and in three hours he was at home.

After Rex was gone Pierce opened haughty reply.

Almost as bad! Peresphone! I never she said sullenly. "You teach much better than you paint."

Almost as bad! Peresphone! I never sketches of his face in every possible positively awful; than you paint."

Val glanced curiously at the calm inscrutable face, and heaved a deep sigh. Pierce the chain round her neck and the locket inside her dress, throwing all the other sketches "My father called me Pierce"—with the chain round her neck and the locket inside her dress, throwing all the other sketches "My father called me Pierce"—with was right perhaps—she usually was—and his teaching, in her case at all events, had been into the fire; and she began a fresh one of successful. So he advertised for a pupil, and, the young gentleman as he looked in his rough ulster and traveling cap.

In the middle of her work she paused, with and prepare for dinner, and pray do not kee a gleeful little laugh at the thought of the us waiting any longer than you can help, shange he would find in their rooms on his said Sir Jasper stifily, return. A new carpet, a soft fleecy rug, low "Cousin Pierce looks so very weary, papa, return. A new carpet, a soft fleecy rug, low pefore.

Low much of the alteration was owing to a few flowers would make a wonderful alternight. I am sure she would rather go to the expent of Rex Davenant, the pupil, it is ation. She would have her new silk dress, her room and have some tea. Would you not easy to say; but certainly from the day not easy to say; but certainly from the day loo, and would then, for the first find, wear loo, cousts?

The paid his preliminary visit Pierce was different. A brightness came into her face great idea of the fitness of things; and a gold with another bright grateful glance at the locket set with diamonds over a shabby black fair vision before her; "my head agues so." the made her wenderfully beautiful, and beauty Russel-cord dress smeared with paints, and "Then we will excuse you this evening," was still dear to the artist's soul. There was in a room with dingy threadbare curtains and said Sir Jasper, holding the door open for

Already she and her father had spent hours she wanted. -in short, Pierce Lisle began to live from in plotting and planning, and had walked the day she first saw Rex Davenaut stand-dozens of times to Tottenham Court and I wonder what we are to do with her," re-ing in their shabby parlor, looking with nn- Hampstead roads to examine the furnidisguised admiration from the drawings of the ture shop windows by daylight and gaslight. a young man of about four and tion, and then there would be the delight of ly not plain. She has most wonderful eyes,

of which Rex was the beginning and end, and

and laid him on his bed.

Disease of the heart, the doctors said, was

the immediate cause of his death. Perhaps they were right: more people die of that malworld dream of; and poor vagrant Val's heart was not only diseased, but

opelessly, incurably broken.

After the first shock of her father's sudden imperfectly educated, how was she to earn her bread? What was she to do? Where was she to turn for advice and encouragement? In the first hours of her grief and despair she had written a half frantic letter to Rex. enbegged him to write her just a line, as she was so lonely and unhappy. But to neither of her letters did she receive any answer; and, with bitter tears and a

thought, to forsake her in her great sorrow; and she sometimes felt as if it were more than she could bear. She was very young and very ignorant of the world; and yet she had to learn how much one may suffer and still live on, and be even brave, patient and cheerful

under the most crushing griefs.

After the funeral, Pierce thought once more what she had better do, and finally concluded to write to her uncle Jasper; he would per midst of his difficulties, and astonishingly lark's. The artist was happy himself too; Mr. ruined numerous sheets of note paper; but it confident of the success of next year after the Davenant paid liberally for his lessons, and was accomplished at last; and then she waited

> It came at length, after a weary for Pierce executed; and altogether the Lisles a cold stiff formal invitation to Lisle Hall without a single word of sympathy or affec-tion, without even an apology for the delay either, or he would not have spent so many hours in that dingy second-floor parlor in Newburn street. street, where every step on the stairs she thought might be his, where every knock at the door caused her to fly to the window; but it was quite impossible to stay, for Pierce had scarcely any money. The expenses of her iress that would "stand alone." and lots of father's funeral, the payment of several outbeautiful "mounts" and frames for her standing debts, and the purchase of her own mourning left her only about ten pounds of the sum paid to her father for his pictures :

> admiringly, then critically.
>
> "Pierce, you're a genius!" he cried. "This She drove from the station alone in a fly

ing to do with this?"

"Give it to you if you will accept it, Rex. I thought perhaps it would remind you of our happy evenings when you are away."

"Do you think I shall require anything to ficence of the apartment. At length the door remind me of them, Pierce?" asked Rex, opened, and a young lady entered—a tall, turning up her face with one hand and push-slender, stately girl with golden hair, pink ing back the thick short curls from her fore-head with the other. "Do you think I shall rich dress of soft black silk, which hung in forget you for a single moment while I am heavy folds about her graceful form and trailed a long way behind her. A drapery of "Yes, I am sure you will, for a great many white lace was artistically arranged so as to

best advantage.
She extended her hand graciously to " How do you do, cousin? You must be

very weary."
The voice was low and sweet, the one to love, some one to love her—if it were only a dog. But her stiff bow and admission

er greeting than her cousin Ethel had been After a brief exchange of adverse sentiments personage Pierce had ever beheld. After "I'm glad you like it; but it's not half steady prolonged stare, he greeted her even

"I don't know, paps. I told Jackson—"
"Bing for your maid to attend to her," interrupted Sir Jasper sharply. "I have not pleasure of knowing your name, Mis-

merrie Christmas.'"

"Good-bye, Rex, and 'a happy Christmas,'"

replied Pierce. "I'll think of you lots of putting up his glass and surveying his niece with something like horror. "I failed to catch

'Persephone," repeated the girl, meeting his look with clouding brows.
"Why, that's a fearful name—a profane

stairs four steps at a time.

He arrived at Euston just in time to jump for I have been called so for nearly seventeen

"What was your mother's name?" asked Sir Jasper coldly.
"Diana!" was the equally cold and

"I don't know, paps. It seems to me s

"Hem—that's something better! Now go

"A very plain, rude, awkward girl, Ethel. the dining room.

" She is shy, papa, and weary, but certain and in a different dress she would look beau-

"We do not want a second beauty at Liele

they knew Rex Davenont! From this Pierce quietly. "The girl says she can draw and went off into a golden glorious day-dream point well, and read French and German. of which Rex was the beginning and end, and I don't see why we should not keep Maud from which she was aroused by the sound of and Beatrice at home and let her teach them;

bedy of Valentine Lisle. He had dropped dead in the street, just outside the door; and tenderly and reverently than accordance.

"But he likes fair ones better, dearest," returned Sir Jasper, looking up proudly at one tarping at ker door. It was Ethel, looking daughter, "and one fair one especially, if I'm not very much mistaken! I'll see look before, more sweet and tender and sor-Pierce in the morning and have a talk with rowful.

"Very well; you know best, papa." And without a single pang, Ethel Lisle consigned her cousin to the drudgery of the school room instead of the pleasures of the drawing-

to Pierce, she expressed herself as not only agreeable to conform to it, but positively pleased to do so. She was anite willing to instruct her little cousins in the arts of draw ing, painting, grinding colors, etc., also to read French and German with them, see that they learned their lessons, practised their music, took daily constitutional walks in the park, and always had clean muslin frocks and she wanted one, and ten pounds a year pocketloyally he informed me that he loves you
money. Pierce called it a salary; but Sir
Jasper elevated his eyebrows and grew pale he has done me, and asked me if I was willwith horror at the idea of a Lisle being a
hired domestic.

After the first section of the great will be a section of the gre hired domestic.

After the first few months of coldness and

reserve, the life was not unpleasant. Maud and Beatrice were merry, good-natured, though not very clever children, and fond of their cousin. They had their apartments—school-room, bed-rooms and a little private sitting-room for Pierce - quite at the back of the house, with a separate entrance to the garden, through which they passed into the park, where they took their daily walks, and so knew almost as little of the doings at the Hall as if they lived ten miles from it.

On Sunday morning Sir Jasper would see the little girls in the library for a few min-utes and hear them repeat their collect, Ethel would look into the school-room occasionally on her way down to dinner—for, after the first few weeks, Pierce expressed a wish to remain entirely with the children, and Sir Jasper graciously acquiesced—and that was all the intercourse they had with the family. But most extraordinary sounds under the impromptu touch of Pierce, the walls were decorated with trophies of her skill in caricaturing, and Maud had developed a remarkable talent for mimicry which usually kept them in roars for mimicry which used to leave use for mimicry which use for mimicry which used to leave use for mimicry which used to leave use for mimicry which used to leave use for mimicry which is mimicry which used to leave use for mimicry which is mimicr

and then it was quite by accident. She neard Sir Jasper tell Ethel that if she did not marry Lord Lornton soon they would be ut-terly ruined. The Hall was morgaged, every tree that could be sold without open confes-tree that could be sold without open confespressing debts.

nving in such state, keeping a great retinue and Lord Lornton. No, don't thank me; of uselesse servants, having grand dinner parties, and being apparently so happy and prosperous when they were poor and in debt. It did not seem right—and surely it could not be comfortable. She longed to go to her uncle and tell him that she could not accent his monor of the state of heart of hea not be comfortable. She longed to go to her uncle and tell him that she could not accept his money or his hospitality, since he was not in a position to bestow either upon her. However, a little reflection convinced har that the ten pounds a year was more than the ten pounds a year was more than saved, for the children would either will never come between year and him. Now have had an expensive governess or leave me. Good night, cousin. I hope you been at school; and, besides, she dreaded letting Sir Jasper know that she was you may never repent this night's work. Tell

A few weeks later she learned that his lordand he were to be married in October. That the whole happiness of her life aside—how was in July; and the whole month of August passed without her catching even a glimpse f the gentleman who had won beautiful Ethel Beatrice talked a good deal about him, and declared he was handsome, kind, and clever, and the most delightful sort of big brothe any one could have; but even they saw little desire to escape. Mechanically she walked of him—only for ten minutes at dessert now across the park in the direction of the mere, and again; and his chief attraction in their eves was undoubtedly his capacity for mak-

In the general rejoicing and active preparations for the wedding Pierce seemed to be quite forgotten. No one thought of her at all, or offered to introduce her to the man who was soon to be her cousin by courtesy; and, strangely enough, Pierce exhibited no curiosity whatever; but she thought of Rex Davenant a little oftener, and her sketches and drawings were of the old room in Newburn nto a drawer and locked it when she heard

the children coming.

One day at the beginning of September, a usual into the park, the little girls chasing each other through the shady walks and

Suddenly she looked up dreamily, and sav him within a few yards of her, coming to-ward her, with Ethel leaning proudly on his arm. He was looking down at her, with a patient sort of interest in his face; but in a moment he looked up, started violently, and, with an exclamation of joy, sprang for-

"Pierce my darling, thank Heaven I have of color to her lips.

"Petite, why did you leave me? Oh, be required; and, ta found you! arms.

my darling, my darling!" "Rex"—and the little face, radiant with it as she met the haughty indignant ques-tioning glance of Ethel. "I knew Mr. Davenant a long time ago, Ethel," she said calmly;

"This is not Mr. Davenant, Pierce, but Lord Lornton," replied Ethel frigidly. "I cried, fervently. "She is mine indeed now, think I had better walk on, my lord, and no power on earth can part us!" leave you to renew your very pleasant inti-macy with Miss Lisle."

paused till she reached her room; then, locking the door, she threw herself down by the

over Rex was not Rex any longer, but Lord were indeed Sir Jusper's son. He had ad. half feet." Capt. Reid adds that he intends Lornton. But he was engaged to cousin Ethel; vanced money to enable him to meet his most to bring her out in racing trim early the comand her uncle's words flashed across Pierce's pressing habilities, and had helped him with

"The girl says she can draw and you do not marry Lord Lornton soon, we shall Sir Jasper followed.

be utterly ruined."
"I don't care," omed Pierce, fiercely, startthings."
The loves
the gravely. "I fear Pierce would prove
a formidable rival if we introduced her into
society. For the present, at all events, it will
be desirable to keep her in the background.
Lornton likes dark beauties."

me, and I will not give him up—he is mine!"
And she passed before the murror and pushed
the thick curls from her temples. "I have
more beauty than Ethel. I could win him
from her; and I will!" Then she buried her
face in the bedclothes and sobbed wildly; and
the burden of her cry was "Rex. Bex!"

"I want to speak to you, cousin Pierce,"

There was something in Ethel's eyes that made her feel ashamed of her late resolutions. "Rex has told me all, Pierce," she began
—"how he loved you long before he had ever
seen me, and before he was Lord Lornton; how he left you at Christmas time and was kept away by the illness of his great-uncle and, after that, by his death: how, when he returned to London, he heard of the death of your father, and that you had gone away no-body knew where; how he sought you for

heart belonged to another woman. 'If you are willing, I am prepared to stand by my en-gagement, Ethel,' he said; and I replied that

would leave it all to Pierce."
"Leave it all to me?" cried Pierce. "How

I do not understand."
"I said that if you still cared for him, ifif you had not forgotten him, I would give him his liberty, I would absolve him from his promises, and hoped you and he might be happy; but, if you had seased to care for him and refused to be his wife, I would fulfil my engagement."

"But he told you that he cared for me," said Pierce-"that he had not forgotten How could you become his wife, knowing that

"What does it matter ?" rejoined Ethel little wearsly. "I am not going to marry Lord Lornton for his love, but for his

money."
"What do you want me to do?" asked they were merry enough the greater part of the time. The school-room piano discoursed "What you think best; but listen to my side of the story. I do not love Lord Lorn ton; I never did nor could; and I have love somebody else-loved him all my life-eye since I can remember. But he is poor, and I entertainment. So months passed away; as ruined; he will never be able to hold up and, if Pierce ever thought of Rex his head amongst honorable men again; Ar-Davenant, the memory did not seem to bring her sorrow, for she was always gay and Nere must leave Eton. Oh, Pierce, think happy.

It was not till a year and a half after her arrival at Lisle Hall that Pierce got any insight into the true state of heruncie's affairs; tempt! you are a Lisle, cousin; help me to save our name from disgrace?" Pierce looked up at her cousin, a curion

sion of poverty was gone, and every acre of per never did for my father. Lisle Hall car the park was encumbered with heavy and scarcely be called my home; still, I will give pressing debts.

It was a severe shock to Pierce; and she could not understand how people could go on covet. Yes, I will never come between you

not in a position to bestow either upon her. her eyes.

However, a little reflection convinced her that "Yes—no, I cannot do that, Ethel—I canacquainted with his circumstances. Who this him I hope he may be happy too —and—and Lord Lornton who was to be married for his some day, Ethel, will you give him my port-

Then she began to think of what she had Rex too. She put on her hat and jacket and quietly left the house, with only one Lisle's hand, if not her heart. Maud and fixed idea in her mind to get away from Lisle Hall and Rex forever. Whither she would go, what she would do, never cost her a thought—she was only conscieus of a great large sheet of deep still water that lay in a valley about a mile from the house, in the quietest and the most remote part of the Lord Lornton, smoking a eigar on the ter

race after dinner, and wondering much what would be the result of his encounter with street and of the pupil with the frank honest every moment that the form was strangely face and sunny eyes. She always put them like Persephone's, and longing with a strange icalous dread to know whither she was going It was a clear moonlit night, still and warm: and, as he emerged from the shade glorious, genial day, when everything in na-ture seemed happy, restful, and entirely un-saw that the woman he followed was making conscious of the approach of chilly winter-time. Pierce and the children went out as in another moment without even waiting to discover if she was pursued, she sprang in. There was a dull splash, then a making nosegays ot such flowers as they few circling ripples on the placid surface of could discover. Pierce walked slowly up and the mere, and Pierce Lisle was out of sight, few circling ripples on the placid surface of

down a broad smooth path, bordered on each without a cry or groan, or even a motion of down a broad smooth path, bordered on each wishous a cry of broad, of side with trees, the branches of which let in despair.

atracaling ravs of sunshine. She was read. For a moment Rexistood spell-bound; then, ing an odd number of a magazine, and the with an exclamation of horror, he cleared the story reminded her strangely of her own life intervening space at a few bounds, and was thought it likely Pierce might rise to the surresembling death. For a moment he knelt beside her, chafing her hands vigorously, and trying by his kisses to restore some faint tinge

Then he saw that stronger measures would be required; and, taking her in his arms, he carried her to a cottage a little farther on, where the under-gamekeeper lived, and laid happiness, was raised for a moment—"let her unceremoniously on the hearth, despatchme go, please." A dark shadow passed over ing the man for the nearest doctor, the children to the Hall for help, and assisting the gamekeeper's wife to use every simple remedy "he was poor papa's pupil, and we were very dear friends." her face as she saw Rex bending over her.
"Thank Heaven, she is not dead!" he

It was a long time before Pierce recovered

used to be in the old dark dreary day before Hall just yet, Ethel," replied Sir Jasper, mind with fearful distinctness-" Ethel, if judicious advice, which, for a great wonder, IN THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH.

ing to her feet; "he is my Bex! He loves present being Ethel Liske and Mrs. Fortesque and I will not give him up—he is mine!" and her son. beside the bride and her son. and her son, beside the bride and bridegroom. Sidney gave Pierce away; and, when the ceremony was over, they all drove to Mrs. Fortesque's lodgings and had a quiet breakfast. Afterwards Lord and Lady Lornton started for the Continent; and Ethel and Sidney wondered how long it would be before they should be the principal actors in a similar

ceremony.

They had not to wait long, however, for, ewing to the the good offices of Rex. Sidney soon received an appointment in New Zealand, and Ethel accompanied him thither. She has been heard to say that she has never regretted the terrible circumstances that saved her from being Lady Lornton, and always maintains that Pierce's plunge into the mere was the luckiest accident in the world.

Pierce and Rex live almost entirely abroad. The Manor, Lord Lornton's home, is too mear Lisle Hall to be quite pleasant just yet; and, besides, he wishes his wife to study the old masters in Italy and cultivate her marvelous talent for painting. Flatterers say there is no room for improvement either in painting or anything else that the beautiful, gifted fortunate Persephone undertakes. Lady Lorn-ton, always conscious of one great weakness and wickedness of her life, is always humble and gentle, pitiful to the faults and failings of every one; and in her the weak, the wavering, the suffering and the wretched have ever a firm and faithful friend.

PAUL DENMAN.

THE TRUTHFUL GAS METER.

Some time since the Free Press contained a humorous poem written by the poetical ma-chine that grinds out poetry for the New York Sunday World. It depicted a man's struggle with a gas meter. First he used an ordinary amount of gas and at the end of the month in for \$8.50. The poem has passed into oblivion but it is quite easy to nake another just like it. For instance

He closed his mansion tightly up And hied him off from hence But at the month's end the bill came in For \$6.50.

The gas company seemed to be going on the principle that the amount of gas consumed had no relation to the bill, so the consumer

acted accordingly, because next month :

Day and night the burners blazed And he did loudly laugh, When the gas-man's bill came in the same, \$1.50.

This case, or rather one very similar to it. occurred in New York recently. The residents of the aristocratic region of Murray Hill found that the amount of gas used bore no relation to the bills. They reduced the consumption twenty-five per cent. But the

HANGING A MAN AT NEWGATE.

An execution at Newgate. "Here is a narrow stony court inclosed in high stone walls, and a barrier across it fencing the door through which the criminals are brought, and thereby a bright structure of wood not unlike a loose box—not unlike a cabman's shelter—but the sides of it only waist high. This shed she witnesses of his death standing all upon a level, and all in the little space between the pittless walls. While I waited in an outer room, dreadful it was to see a little knot of workmen souffle by, beforehand, with spades the facts are stated to be well known to every and night ways not all the facts are stated to be well known to every and night ways not live to the state and the facts are stated to be well known to every and night ways not live to the state and the facts are stated to be well known to every workmen scume by, beforenand, with spaces one, living in the Great street outside the with lime in it: these to prepare the grave. Chien Men (Front Gate) at Peking, where the with lime in it; these to prepare the grave.

Tell
More terrible that, to me, than all that followed. Hurriedly, in a shambling, furtive, silent way, the two that were to die were tioner, and then in an instant they disap-

one day to be engaged in inspecting a State penitentiary in one of the provincial seats of government, and took it into his head to question some of the convicts respecting the nature of the offences for which they were suffering punishment. "What are you here he asked of one. "I am innocent. Imperial Majesty," replied the prisonar, falling on his knees; "a victim of false witness! A church was robbed—a headle hold of me, and I knew nothing about it.' Similar replies were given by other prisoners. glance along the line of prisoners until his | false charge ?" "Not a bit of it your manager | departure the uncie, who had not been for many years, was consequently coming to his house, as he had a thousand things to stole a pony from a tradesman." "Stole a talk about—reminiscenses to recall, messages pony, did you?" said the Czar, with a laugh, and then, addressing the governor of the prison with well-assumed sternness, "Turn actually arrived the uncle went across for the that good-for-nothing rascal instantly out of doors. I cannot allow him to remain a minute longer in such honorable and virtuous

yachtamen are taking an unusual interest in rooms in ruins without doors or windows. the cup won at Cowes in 1851 by the America. He made inquiries among the neighbors but comes the information that this yacht has none of them knew anything of the old man the other day from Duffy's marine railway The old man and his daughter were her commander, Capt. James Reid, a Boston But stranger than anything else was the fact branch pilot and a deep water navigator of that from that day forth the drugs stored in celebrity, said: "The America has been re- the warehouse became just as subject to mold macy with Mise Liste."

"No, no, cousin, please do not; I am girl girl gried Pierce. "Good-bye, Rex; I did not know. I am so sorry!" And, dropping her magazine, she ran up the broad path, crossed an angle of the park, and never path path never the state flater and the honor of their name.

It was a long time trece recovered; with new top timbers and knees of hackman data with new top timbers and knees of hackman data with new top timbers and knees of hackman.

—Something in Boston displeased Brother locks the never path and the never pat built from four strakes below the water line, as those kept anywhere else."-London Tcle-When Pierce was well enough to be moved, trimming. She has now the same spars as open window and endeavored to think of all there she made the acquaintance of a Mrs. 1876, twenty miles from Sandy Hook and Rome is burrowed, leading from a lonely spot that had happened.

First of all, Rex was found, and he loved her still. There was no mistaking the ex
Ethel with a kise, and seemed inclined to bed back for the Queen's Cup. In order to reme be still.

Ethel with a kise, and seemed inclined to bed by a trick the America has of running herself out of the water and settling aft, all the tim pression of his face, the warm pressure of his stow a similar favor on Pierce in the exaber-lips, and the clasp of his hand. It seemed too glorious and delightful to realise. More Pierce learned that Rex had acted as if he been provided with an overhang of six and a

A month later there was a very quiet wed. A "Missing Man" and a Corpse that Rode up to the Camp Fire at Midnight

A New South Wales letter to the London

Telegraph says: I was riding through the back scrub the other day horribly hot, when I

saw something shining on a tree which naturally excited my curiosity. I rode up to it through the long grass, scaring away at the same time a flock of crows and hawks, while four inguanas scattled up the adjoining trees. The shining object proved to be a tin "billy," and underneath, at the foot of a great pine unfortunate traveler quite dead. He had been dead for two days, I should think, and was evidently one of the army of workers who travel the length and breadth of this continent on foot, seeking employment, and for weeks and months seeking in vain. This poor fellow must have traveled in our pathless shrub for days, coming back in the ever fatal circle so well known to dwellers in a wilderness, to the great pine where he lay down at last, weary and hungry, to await the 'end which he must have known to be near. Traced on the "bil-ly," with the point of a knife, I think, were Lord Jesus, receive my soul." I found no papers about him, no clue. He was quite young, too, about 24, perhaps. We had a grave dug under the great tree-a trooper, who came from Boggobu, the nearest town-ship, read the burial services; he was rolled n his blankets and a few sheets of bark, and laid in the grave, there to rest till the universal call. Alas! how many such burials have I assisted at, and how many nameless wanderers—each, perhaps, the pride of a fond mother and the hope of a circle of friends— have lain down to die in our Australian bush. have lain down to die in our Australian Duan. It always makes me miserable to read the long lists of "missing friends" in the colonial papers. * * I was terribly frightened one night in Queensland by a dead man riding up to my camp fire at midnight. I was quite alone. I heard my horse neighing and another one answering in the Malgas bushes, so I got up and put wood on, making a bright blaze, and presently, into the circle of the light came a horseman, bending over his pommel, with his large straw hat slouched over his eyes. I took my revolver off my saddle and sung out: "Good night, mate! You travel late. Will you have a drink of tes?" Not a word of answer. Just then my two dogs, who had been sniffing about, set two cogs, who had been shilling about, set up such a terrible cry it made me jump again. After a bit I began to open my eyes to the state of affairs, and mustered courage enough to walk up to the horse and take hold of the reins. While doing so I touched the rider's hands, which were cold as ice. I tried to get him off the saddle, but it was of no use. His legs were out of the irons and wound tightly around the mare. I had to cut the reins from the grip of his fingers. I packed him on the horse when sunrise came and led him into Tambo, where I found he was well more they reduced the bigger became the bills, and there seems no reason to doubt that if they hal stopped the use of the gas altogether the bills would have ruined even miles, and I was only twelve miles from the people of such wealth. Investigation showed that the gas meter differs from mankind— There was no doctor within 200 miles at that the more water it absorbs the more unreliable it became. There was water in the meters, at which the P. M. talked learnedly of muscular which the P. M. talked learnedly of muscular water in the meters. the more water it absorbs the more unremands the more water it absorbs the more unremands the more water in the meters, at which the P. M. talked learnedly of must to the amazement of the gas company. It lar contraction and sunstroke, and was puzzled to decide whether the brandy had anymeters were put in, and as they are not yet his own experience, that the liquor was first-accustomed to their work yet they are class. He praised me more than I deserved easonably truthful so far. - Detroit Free for I had had a mind to run away at first. When I am camped out even now alone strange thoughts of that nocturnal horseman ccme into my head.

A QUEER CHINESE TALE.

A Story That Might Have Been Told in

A correspondent forwards the following il

affair is supposed to have occurred:
"A certain Ningpo man kept a druggist's shop at Pekin. Having made a good deal of money was she did not know or care—some folio of drawings when I am gone?" And, great gentleman, no doubt, who would find in without waiting for an answer, Pierce pushed Ethel's beauty a very fair equivalent for his her cousin gently out of the room and fastwealth.

A faw weeks later she learned that his lord.

Thought into the court; not very terrified, it wholesale business as well as the retail one. He therefore bought a warehouse for storing the other and the greater villain boyish and drugs and put it in charge of a nephew. His few weeks later she learned that his lordwas staying at the Hall, and that Ethel
said and done, of how she had wilfully thrust
the were to be married in October. That
in July; and the whole month of August
perhaps she had wreeked the happiness of
tioner, and the greater viliam boyish and the greater viliam boyish and the greater viliam boyish and the warked with the criminality of a born fool.
When all was prepared, Good bye, they said;
Good bye, between them and ther execuordinary reason that the drugs stored in the
tioner, and then in an instant they disap moldy than anybody else's. As the nephew more." San Francisco has not yet been cured of passing by the door. Though he sorely longed its love of titled aristocrats, and therefore to try to make acquaintence with her, he was continues to be a victim of pretenders. The restrained by her modest and retiring latest of these was a clever rogue who called demeanor. Time went by, and one day an old himself Count Von Schiller. He made acquaintances in snobbish society, and then a staff called at the uncle's shop. In the pretended to fall dangerously ill. He dictated course of conversation it appeared that he a letter to his father, directing him how to ame from the borders of Snensı and Kansu, make a remittance of \$6,000, and induced the young man who acted as his amanuens to from the Mohammedan disturbances in teh end him \$1,000 until the money came. Then west. Finally he said that he had often rehe feigned a belief that he was about to die, marked the nephew at work in the warehouse Pierce, and what conclusion Ethel would and made a will in which his San Francisco and had been struck by his steadiness and ultimately come to, caught a glimpse of a slight black robed figure fitting through the strength of these bequests he borrowed numer-daughter to him. He had sufficient money ible impulse, he followed leisurely, thinking posed and arrested. the trousseau and wedding presents, and

-The late Emperor Nicholas happened man, being so far from his home at Ningpo, was not betrothed to any one. His uncle therefore, gladly accepted his proposal. As both parties were strangers in Pekin, every-thing was settled and the marriage ceremony performed without any unnecessary fuss or formality. When the time came for the bride to unveil, the bridegroom who had never yet seen her, was most anxious to know what she ness! A church was robbed—a beadle loy to discover that she was the girl he used knocked on the head—the peasants caugh to see passing his warehouse. The marriage was a happy one. He was the fondest of husbands and she the most loving and duti-The Emperor, obviously bored by these suctessive protestations of guiltlessness, cast a father in Ningpo, wishing to see his new glance along the line of prisoners until his daughter in law, wrote and told his son we eye fell upon a ragged, wretched-looking gypsy, whom he beckoned forward with the words, "Of course you, too, are here on a false charge?" "Not a bit of it your Manda properties of the words ing made preparations to start off as soon as ment for them to commence the journey actually arrived the uncle went across for the company, lest he pervert all these good, innolearn anything there. But there was no house -Along with the news that the English standing, merely two or three wretched little een thoroughly everhauled. She was floated or the house. Everything was then plain. t Boston. In speaking of her improvements, and had made away with the young husband.

-It has just been discovered that one o beyond the Porte Angelica, and passing beneath the walls, has for some time been utilized by smugglers as a route for introducing into an old stable in the Borgo, bales of sugar and various comestibles. From the quantity et wares found stored there it is evident that a flourishing contraband trade has been driven with impunity for some time.