STEEL STREET STREET

birds were silent as though dead. Nothing seemed glad or happy saveth, wide-mouthed poppies flaring their scarlet lips to meet the kisses of the fiery sun, and the monotonous hissing of the locusts; all else was still-still as the grave, within as well as without.

The broad, low-roofed stone mansion gave no sign from its many gabled windows.

Nothing was audible but the wearisome tick-tick of the old fashioued clock in its niche in the lower hall.

The house in its mournful loneliness seemed deserted, bereft of all that had been dear and known it of ald, for it had once known the patter of a pair of little childish feet-once echoed to the merry ring of a child's sweet laugh.

But now years had passed. The child had grown into a woman, who stood waiting for her father to die. In one of the upper rooms, Joyce

Keller lay, white and motionless waiting for the death-angel to bring him his release.

There stood about his bed, his daughter, his only child, Elvie; a man young in years, with a sad, sweet, foreign face, lit up now, however, with a glow of something that looked strangely like joy; and, third. the dying man's own dear wife.

Joyce Keller had brought her home, lovely, beloved, but unloving.

Sweet sixteen, in very truth, was Alice Keller then.

Never was golden hair more golden, blue eyes bluer; or bright smiles brighter than his child wife's; and he loved her with all the might and strength of his homely nature, for her beauty, her grace, her sweetness, and for the reason that few men could look upon her rose! - f loveliness and not desire it.

She was poor, he was rich; her parents were ambitious, she was their all: so she married him at their bidding-a man old enough to have been her father, and for whom she enter-

As years were on, it changed into quiet sort of endurance, but every waving hair early that summer morn- dismal place; "no, mamma, I am the simple sight of her husband would drive Alice Keller to despera-

In her daughter she found not con solation, but relief, for into the child's ever-willing ears she poured the story of her sufferings and her wrongs. His fearful jealously, his painful

watching of her every look and movement, jarred and backed her free, untrammelled spirit.

She longed to be away, rid of his presence, out of his sight.

But Jovce Keller had won his wife, and he meant to keep her, all to himself too. .

Their establishment in town was only thrown open at rare and stated intervals, and of intimate friends the poor girl had none; her husband's

He knew is did not possess Alice's love, and he was determined that she should be spared the opportunity of bestowing it upon another.

It was only when his daughter was growing a large girl, that his wife succeeded in persuading him that Elvie " must have society." Then he

She was allowed to mingle with those of her own age to a certain degree, and, of course, the intercourse So, when, at the age of seventeen,

her debut was decided upon, in the shape of a grand fete at Oaklands, for Elvie's birthday came in August, as if by the nature of the month to indicate the girl's sweet, warm, vivid character, her father made no objecspirit of the thing, and prenounced Blyie in her white tulle and scarlet roses a very queen in her dark re splendent beauty.

tints, all save the deep violet eyes; those were Alice's over again. "Who would believe," exclaimed

Jovce Keller, as he gazed at them "that they were mother and daugh ter; if anything, Alice, with her wa ving golden hair and rose-like colour is the younger-looking of the two My Elvie is stately, but she is very sweet," murmured the old man to himself, as he watched them ming · ling with the gay, joyous throng of

though not over tall, and very sweet though few could tell that all th sweetness lav in the down-drooping

A few low-spoken words, as they paced languidly up and down the the sound of familiar voices smote uplong garden paths, illumined with on her ear-Louis de Brusle's voice, many-hued lamps, brought a bright and her mother's in answer. quick, blush to her cheek, as she gave that look, so sweet in its never be any different? I am weary half-timid lovingness, up into his of waiting. If it is much longer, face - a face that seemed worthy of it shall carry you off. I cannot stand too a foreign face, whose actual years it. I am nearly mad!" numbered, perhaps, but twenty-six or Elvie stood still now.

But Louis de Brusle had the manner and air of a man who had passed plucked roses pressed tightly against through many things, both inward her heart, and istened to their talk-

The air of one who had seen all, Oh, Louis, you cannot be more

They wandered on for a few mo ments, in silence unbroken, save by heir own light footfalls on the green

Elvie was the first to speak

"I want to introduce you to my y sight vet, I believe, Mr. de Brusle, do you?

onger, won't you?"

The voice was very pleading, but Elyie was hostess, and she had been beent from her guests quite los enough; so they hurried back, and after a little search found Mrs. Keller tanding in the centre of a crowd of people, to whom she was pointing out he chief beauties of the conservatory ; but she could not have found a

"Mr. de Bru-le, my mother, Mrs. | none had power to raise it up.

Black eves met black in a glance of half-wondering surprise. They neither of them spoke, and Elvie and her companion passed on, him.

the mistress of the mansion.

His expression was perfectly wrapt, as he replied-

lesc nded from above! Beantiful! daughter's love.

Twenty years ago, that very day, after her presence being required in the old man to bear; they completely in another quarter, she left De Brusle unnerved him; so, willing his all to to his own reflections. To these somewhat silent compan- lay him down to die.

ions he did not long 'devote himself, | Without one word of reproach or Keller was disengaged, he made his away that still, hot, midsummer way up to her, and they were soon midday.

snown it would not last; she believed | er's. he loved her -he had almost said he did and Elvie loved him, Louis de many painful memories; she must Brusle, with all the rich, luscious go; her health needed it-so she weetness of her august nature.

the soft-voiced, passionate foreigner in the world could not induce Elvie had won her love her delicate, pure to accompany her. tained no feeling but one of supreme first love, and Elvie's first would be "No, mamma;" she said, in answer

now and then it seemed as though ing, Elvie Keller was very happy; better here. I like Oaklands, and I fairly revelled in her loveliness.

" For his sake, ah, for his sake, he muriaured. " I am so glad that I am beautiful-for he loves beauty, and all things sweet and fair !'

bed, to dream and to wake in a happy- irrecoverable.

Days, weeks, months slowly passed away, and surely, step by step, the young Frenchman had made himself one with the Kellers.

The husband looked upon him as his daughter's suitor, and as such welcomed him on all occasions.

Elvie lived along, happy as a free vinged bird, only now and then' frail shadow would sweep over her indomitable jealously kept every one joy, and cause her to wonder why his wife, for this he had never done. Never had he gone further than

those few words on the night of her It was true, he came co stantly, he

ode, walked, danced with her, but never a shade closer did he venture than months before.

It was as though he were content to have simply won her love, and cared not for the wearing.

He brought her choice irutts and flowers, but he also brought them to

gether, for Mrs. Keller did not approve of Elvie's going out with any gentleman unaccompanied by either her father or herself; and as Joyce Keller found no pleasure in the ways of the world, his fair wife generally made a third with her daughter and

Still Elvie thought nothing of it all, only that faint little wonder as to She inherited her father's dark why Louis did not ask her; but she never doubted his love, not for an instant, any more than she would have doubted her own.

" I suppose he has some good reason," she would whisper to herself and to wait for the simple speaking is not so very hard when I know he

Not many nights after, Elvie was sauntering along the shadowy paths of the old-tashioned garden, her graceful head bowed down, her darklashed eyes drooped upon the ground every lovely woman, sweet and hap

On she walked, regardless of the ast falling dew, and of the fact that om-laden trees and the tiny babbling long meadow-grass. On and on till her only wish.

She did not faint nor fall. She just stood still. with the newly-

but not the one thing needful, he had weary than I am; but you must not

sought, but had not found, the longed- speak so. I never would consent to leaving him, never-never!"

"But." he cried, pressing her goldand very tedious, this waiting for

Alice Keller started at her lover's words, and put her little white hands sive in her step-father's handwriting. cast me off, and now when you come

"Hush, hush! Louis, it is too

Elvie did not stop longer. happings of her young life utterly husband's love. menched and put out for ever.

Proud, pale, and purposeful, barely the suspicion of her sweetness and Louis de Brusle never knew how

she found him out, but that she had was very evident to him.

The woman was just as courteous, steamer.' finer flower than herself, a lily of just as gentle, but the light of love fragile love liness in her floating azure was swept clean away, or else covered glad surprise. by a curtain so dark and heavy that Thus a weary, weary year dragged

Keller on his death bed. That year had wrought changes for

is some one else stepped up to greet "Is not my mother heautiful?" neither given her love to him, nor lands before Thursday of the followmestioned Elvie, glancing up into her locked it up in the storehouse of her ing week; so all those days between

It was given, received, returned, reception, putting the old room he BACON. CORN. and by whom? By his daughter's used to occupy in the old days in or-"Beautiful! She is I know not whilom suitor; by the man whose der, seeing that all was swept and what-like nothing earthly; a spirit sweet whispered words had won his

The facts dawning upon him sud-She did not answer, and, very soon denly, as they did, were too much for broken-hearted Elvie, Jovce Keller

and taking an opportunity when Mrs. complaint of any sort, he passed

Elvie Keller was very happy that lands. Alice, very lovely in her night, so happy that she might have widow's mourning, went to her moth-

She-had not known him long; but But all the persuasion and entreaty

to Mrs. Keller's prayer that she So, as she brushed out her long would come away from that dreadful never desire to leave it again so lon

> So all endeavours unavailing, Alice went, and her daughter stayed.

After Joyce Keller's death, it was discovered that most of his property So she lay down on her little white was so heavily mortgaged as to be

Only Oaklands remained intact but her mother provided for, Elvie was as well content with the farm as she would have been as heiress to an mmense fortune.

Her tasts were luxurious, but quietly so, therefore she had quite sufficient to gratify them.

Her mode of life for two years to come, at least, could be but one of the strictest retirement: hence she made up her mind to stay on at the old place that had known her from her hildhood, had witnessed her happiness and its going, her love and its

A trifle paler, a great deal quieter, with a look of determination in her violet eyes they had never known beore. Elvie lived on, her quiet, monoonous life unbroken save by her mother's letters and an occasional

Thus the first twelve months of her mourning passed, when one day she received the usual weekly epistle from er mother, but not with its usual ontents of current news, advice, wishes that she would leave that dull tupid place. On, no; this was only a note, and ran as follows:

"MY DARLING ELVIE,-No doubt what I am about to write will surprise ou greatly in one respect-its sudyou must have described how much Louis de Brusle' and I are to each eleventh of next month, very privately, of course, and I want you to ly, my daughter, and come to me in my joy, as you have ever shared my unhappiness. Do not refuse the one request of your loving mother,

" ALICE KELLER." The tiny, perfumed sheet fell from Elvie's hand, and long she sat thinkng and struggling with herself.

At last she picked it up, and hardly pausing for another thought, wrote an affirmative answer to her "loving mother's one request."

The wedding was over. The bride and groom had sailed mmediately for Europe.

Elvie Keller stood alone world-alone with her misery and her pride, with nothing in her life but mistake from almost the beginning this one prayer for revenge : that he until now. I loved you, petite, when might suffer even as she suffered was the daily food she lived upon-that his s ul and spirit might be riven brook twining its way through the and stricken as hers had been was have borne. That past was a dream

"If I saw him there at my feet," she murmured, "praying me for my love, I would hold it back. I would "Alice, Alice, my dar ing, will it refuse, although it would be heaven

sion of her until she saw him on his passion. marriage-day, so glowing and happy in the thought of his possession, while she whom he had sought and taught to love him stood motionless, forsaken. and forgotten at his side. 'He, the victim of a wild delusion.

a passing fascination, the victim at the alter of his fancy. Two years swiftly fled by.

long, descriptive foreign letters, but his darling. gradually these grew rarer and rarer,

er's death:

Elvie had now and then received kissed them and called her "his own.

do, and so do I remember it. You balcksealed, mournful-looking mis- I would scorn to deny it. But you Elvie tore it open, to learn what back to me, do you suppose I will she already half-dreaded-her moth- give rayself to you? I love you, God knows, too well, but I have looked Sudden and unlooked for, the dark, for this day, and prayed for it, and smile gone, the flush faded, all e the brightness of her beauty, or her Neither was it altogether sweet for

me. Nav. do not implore me." This letter was merely a detailed account of the sad event, offering consolation, but never a word of des-

"Elvie, Elvie, darling, listen topair or regret. To the letter there was added a "We will part : farewell !" postscript--" Elvie, I am coming home to you; expect me by the pext

The girl's eyes fairly glittered in a "At last, he does suffer, but not a tithe, not a shadow of suffering like

so, I could be more generous !". Elvie calculated, judging from the time the next steamer would arrive Towards the end he began to see at New York, that her stepfather how things stood, that his wife had could not possibly be down at Oaksile was preparing the house for his

> "Elvie, I have come home, back to "You are welcome to Oaklands,

garnished for his coming.

sir, as you ever have been." Courteous and calm was the court-He looked surprised at her, as

though he had expected some grand outburst. But few words passed between hem on the subject of his wife's death : she did not urge it ; he proba-

bly from his deep feeling seemed to wish to avoid it. Three weeks Louis de Brusle stayed at the farm and with his steplaughter, then he went.

That calm courteousness was unleasant to him perhaps. In any case he went to the city, here to spend his mourning-time more consolingly than he possibly could have done at Oaklands with

his dead wife's child. August-sweet, glowing August,

Five years ago since Elvie Keller's oirthday-fete; five years since that weet, low, winning voice whispered hose fair, false words; five years since she knew how much they were

Saddened, black-robed-still she is walking in her garden to-day, the same path she trod those years ago, when she walked to meet her fate.

The violet eyes are shining with their olden-fire unquenched, undimmed, unsatisfied; and to-day she holds roses in her hands, as she held

" Loins!" The name escaped her lips una-

wares, the sight of him was so un "Won't you bid me welcome to your home?" and he clasped his fin-

gers warmly 'over hers. " It is some time since we have seen each other. "Oh, I am very glad to see you, she replied, half bitterly, half tri-

" Did you not receive my note saying that I would be with you to-day?' " No, I only go to the office once a week; my correspondence is small

How are you?" And she glanced up into the thin handsome, face. "I am well, and you are just the same; not a particle changed since

you were always pale." "Ye always." As they talked, they wandered slowly down the narrow path, on and on, as she had wandered alone and

so happy that night long ago. But they went farther than she did then, into the old orchard, down by the babbling brook and the fruitbe at my wedding. Judge me gent- laden trees, and at his suggestion sat

> · He took the roses out of her hands, and took the hands in his hands. She left them, and, looking touch ingly-ah! so touchingly-in his eves, answered-

" Well, Louis?" " Elvie, I am come down to Oaklands to ask you a question, and one that holds in its answer my whole life and happiness.

Such a happy look-ah! too su perbly happy-swept over her face as she leaned towards him, and waited. " Elvie, my past has been one fatal

Vinegar And Spices for Pickling! -a passion-a fancy; but my love is

"Won't you love me?" Those violet eyes looked up at hin This feeling had not taken posses- with an expression of unspeakable

"I also love you.

happy you have made me!" His arms were about her; but she sprang from his touch "I love you, Louis de Brusle, with a love you have not the remotest idea tive of color, position or previous condition, without feet, favor or affection.

"Yours! Oh, never! Do you reen head to his breast, "it is so long until finally there was none for turee member this place, Louis? Ah, you

> And she rose and stood before him. "I love you, you love me; but we

One long, passionate kiss on his forehead, and she left him alone, and went back to her old life with its

So on until the grave. Some women are happy without the seeking; some have the cup held mine. And he is coming to me. O close to their lips, and dashed away itself out and summer found Joyce Louis, Louis, if I did not love you by some other hand; but this woman in her pride, laid it quietly away out of her reach for ever.

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