The Story of a Masterpiece.

By HENRY JAMES, Jr.



erett, of New York.
Mr. Lennox was a
widower, of large
estate and without children. He distinguished ap-pearance, of ex-cellent manners, of an unusual share

ood to have suffered a trying and salutar obation during the short term of his wed ded life. Miss Everett was, therefore, all things considered, believed to be making a a very good match and to be havin, by no

a very good match and to be havin, by no means the worst of the bargain.

And yet Miss Everett, too, was a very marriageable young lady—the pretty Miss Everett, as she was called, to distinguish her from certain plain cousins, with whom, owing to her having no mother and no sisters, she was constrained, for decency's sake, to spend a great deal of her time—rather to her own satisfaction. her own satisfaction, it may be conject-ured, than to that of these excellent young

Marian Everett was penniless indeed; but she was richly endowed with all the gifts which make a woman charming. She was, without dispute, the most charming, girl in the circle in which she lived and moved. Even certain of her elders, women moved. Even certain of her elders, women of a larger experience, of a heavier caliber, as it were, and, thanks to their being married ladies, of greater freedom of action, were practically not so charming as she. And yet, in her emulation of the social graces of these, her more fully licensed signals. ters, Miss Everett was quite guiltless of an aberration from the strict line of maidenly dignity. She professed an almost religious devotion to good taste, and she looked with horror upon the boisterous graces of many of her companions. Beside being the most entertaining girl in New York, she was, therefore, also the most irreproachable. Her beauty was, perhaps, contestable, but it was certainly uncontested. She was the least bit below the middle height, and her person was narked by a great fuliness and roundne outline; and yet, in spite of this comely derosity, her movements were perfectly ight and elastic. In complexion, she was a genuine blonde—a warm blonde; with a midsummer bloom upon her cheek, and light of a midsummer sun wrought her auburn hair. Her features were not cast upon a classical model, but their expression was in the highest degree pleasing. Her forehead was low and broad, her nose small, and her mouth —well, by the envious her mouth was called enormous. It is certain that it had an immense capacity for smiles, and that when she opened it to sing (which she did with infinite sweetness) it emitted a copious flood of sound. Her face was, perhaps, a trifle too circular, and her shoulders a trifle too high; but, as I say, the general effect left nothing to be desired. I might point out a dozen dis cords in the character of her face and figure, and yet utterly fail to invalidate the impres-sion they produced. There is something es-sentially uncivil, and, indeed, unphilosophical, in the attempt to verify or to disprove a woman's beauty in detail, and a man gets no more than he deserves when he finds that, in strictness, the aggregation of the different features fails to make up the total. Stand off, gentlemen, and let her make the addition. Beside her beauty, Miss Everett shone by her good nature, and her lively perceptions. She neither made harsh speeches nor re-sented them; and, then, on the other hand, she keenly enjoyed intellectual cleverness, and even cultivated it. Her great merit was

amiability. The one was all freshness and the others all bonhommie. John Lennox saw her, then loved her and offered her his hand. In accepting it Miss Everett acquired, in the world's eye, the one advantage which she lacked—a complete stability and regularity of position. Her friends took no small satisfaction in contrasting her brilliant and comfortable future with her somewhat precarious past. Lennox, neverthele's, was congratulated on the right hand and on the left; but none too often for his faith. That of Miss Everett was not put to so severe a test, although she was fre-quently reminded by acquaintances of a mor-alizing turn that she had reason to be very thankful for Mr. Lennox's choice. To these assurances Marian listened with a look of patient humility which was extremely being. It was as if for his sake she could nt even to be bored.

that she made no claims or pretensions. Just as there was nothing artificial in her

beauty, so there was nothing pedantic in her acuteness and nothing sentimental in her

Within a fortnight after their engagement had been made known, both parties returned to New York. Lennoz lived in a house of his own, which he now busied himself with repairing and refurnishing; for the wedding had been fixed for the end of October. Miss Everett lived in lodgings with her father, a decayed old gentleman, who rubbed his idle hands from morning till night over the prospect of his daughter's marriage.

John Lennox, habitually a man of numer-

ous resources, fond of reading, fond of music, fond of society, and not averse to politics, passed the first weeks of autumn in a restles fidgety manner. When a man approaches middle age he finds it difficult to wear grace-fully the distinction of being engaged. He finds it difficult to discharge with becoming alacrity the various petits soins incidental to the position. There was a certain pathetic gravity, to those who knew him well, in Lennox's attentions. One-third of his time he spent in foraging Broadway, whence he re-turned half a dozen times a week, laden with trinkets and gimeracks, which he always finished by thinking it puerile and brutal to offer his mistress. Another third he passed in Mr. Everett's drawing room, during which period Marian was denied to visitors. The rest of the time he spent, as he told a friend, God knows how. This was stronger language than his friend expected to hear, for Lennox was neither a man of precipitate utterance, nor, in his friend's belief, of a strongly passionate nature. But it was evident that he was very much in love; or at least very much

'When I'm with her it's all very well," he pursued, "but when I'm away from her I feel as if I were thrust out of the ranks of the

living."
"Well you must be patient," said his friend; "you're destined to live hard, yet." Lennox was silent, and his face remaine rather more somber than the other liked to

"I hope there is no particular difficulty," the latter resumed; hoping to induce him to relieve himself of whatever weighed upon his

"I'm afraid sometimes I-afraid sometimes she doesn't really love me."
"Well, a little doubt does no harm. It's

better than to be too sure of it, and to sink into fatuity. Only be sure you love her."
"Yes," said Lennox solemnly, "that's the great point."

One morning, unable to fix his attention on books and papers, he bethought himself of an expedient for passing an hour.

He had made, at Newport, the acquaintance of a young artist named Gilbert, for whose talent and conversation he had con-ceived a strong relish. The painter, on leaving Newport was to go to the Adirondacks, and to be back in New York on Oct. 1, after which time he begged his friend to come and

It occurred to Lennox on the morning I speak of that Gilbert must already have returned to town, and would be looking for his visit. So he forthwith repaired to his studio. Gilbert's card was on the door, but, on entering the room, Lennox found it occupied by a stranger—a young man in painter's garb at work before a large panel. He learned from this gentleman that he was a temporary sharer of Mr. Gilbert's studio, and that the latter had stepped out for a few moments. Lennox ac-cordingly prepared to await his return. He

entered into conversation with the young man, and, finding him very intelligent, as well as, apparently, a great friend of Gilbert, he looked at him with some interest. He was of something less than 30, tall and robust, with a strong, joyous, sensitive face, and a thick suburn beard. Lennox was struck with his face, which seemed both to express a great deal of human assetty and to indicate the essential temperament of a painter.

"A man with that face," he said to himself, "does work at least worth looking at."

He accurdingly asked his companion if he might come and look at his picture. The latter readily assented, and Lennox placed himself before the canvas.

It bore a representation of a half length female figure, in a costume and with an expression so ambiguous that Lennox remained uncertain whether it was a portrait or a work of fancy; a fair haired young woman, clad in a rich medisaval dress, and looking like a countess of the Renaissance. Her figure was relieved against a somber tapestry, her arms loosely folded, her head erect and her eyes on the spectator, toward whom she seemed to move—"Dans un flot de veloure trainant see petits pleds."

As Lennox inspected her face it seemed to

to move—"Dans un flot de velours trainant ses petits pieda."

As Lennox inspected her face it seemed to reveal a hidden likeness to a face he well knew—the face of Marian Everett. He was, of course, anxious to know whether the likeness was accidental or designed.

"I take this to be a portrait," he said to the artist, "a portrait in character."

"No," said the latter, "it's a mere composition; a little from here and a little from there. The picture has been hanging about me for the last two or three years, as a sort of receptacle of waste ideas. It has been the victim of innumerable theories and experiments. But it seems to have survived them all. I suppose it possesses a certain amount all. I suppose it possesses a certain amount of vitality." "Do you call it anything?"



"Do you call it anything?" "I called it originally after something I'd read—Browning's poem, 'My Last Duchess.' Do you know it?"

"I am ignorant of whether it's an attemp to embody the poet's impression of a portrait actually existing. But why should I caref This is simply an attempt to embody my own private impression of the poem, which has always had a strong hold on my fancy. I don't know whether it agrees with your own impression and that of most readers. But I don't insist upon the name. The possessor of the picture is free to baptize it

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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If You Fear an Attack
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Coare
Quarryvilleat 7.10 a. m.,
Eing Street, Leno., at 6.05 a. m., and 5.15 p. m.
Arrive at
Beading, 10.10 a. m., and 5.55 p. m.
Leave;
Reading, at 7.20 a. m., and 4 p. m.
Arrive at
King Street, Lano., at 2.20 a. m., and (5.50 p. m.
Quarryville, at 6.40 p. m.

Quarryville, at 6.40 p. m.

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At Columbia, with trains to and from York, Hanover, Settysburg, Frederick and Bailt more.

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At Manheim with trains to and from Long, non. non.
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A. M. Willown Superintendent.

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