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INE DOLLAR PER ANNUM INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

"REGARDLESS OF DENUNCIATION FROM ANY QUARTER."

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TOWANDA:

Chursdan Morning, October 1, 1857.

Selected Tale.

MY SISTER'S HUSBAND.

I was the youngest of a handsome family. My three sisters, each in her way, were very pretty; but I, the youngest, and with a natupretty; but I, the youngest, and with a natural right to be the pet of the house, was never either a beauty or a favorite. My rights in the matter of favoritism were, and from the first day of her existence had been entirely monopolized by my third sister, Caroline. I was not, however, envious of that; it doubtes outside her better to be made; less, suited her better to be made a pet, than it would have suited me. My lack of beauty I did regret; but as that want could not be remedied, I endeavored to become reconciled to the face and figure God had given me.-These were both small, and the first sallow and thin. It boasted, however, and boasts still, of at least one striking feature, a pair of

large black eyes. ands to India. I have never seen either of them since. My third sister, however remained at home, and there I joined her when, a girl of seventeen, my school life ended.

I was fond of Caroline, and she too, I believe, of me, yet her affection was by no means that of an elder sister for a younger .-As I said before, she, and not I, occupied the sition of voungest in our household. She as spoilt, while I was left unpetted; she was lattered and admired, while no eye looked at, and no lip spoke of me; she was encouraged and almost compelled to lean on other people, while I was left to depend upon myself.

a mill-owner, and for many hours each day away from home. These periods, when Carone and I should be left together, I meant to arn to good account. I was better educated than she was, and I meant to give her lessons. cared for study, and I meant to make her learn with me where I was most ignorant. I came home primed with my project, and the first domestic tiding I received was the news that she was to be married within six weeks.

She gave me the information herself, as I stood taking off my bonnet in my room-gave it me with the prettiest blushes in the world, with the smallest, timidest voice-so softly and shyly, indeed, that at the first telling I neither heard nor comprehended what she said. But, for any sympathy that she got, or was likely to get from me, I understood quickly

Had either of my elder sisters been at moment of this declaration in my place, she would I do not doubt, have forthwith put her arms around Caroline's neck, and conveyed her congratulations to her with much affectionate kissing, and probably some few tears. I grieve to say that in no manner approached my such demonstration. I simply expanded y black eves till Caroline's blue one's sank fore them, and broke into one short sentence which I fear was neither affecting nor consola-

Her lover was in the house, however, at that oment, and I had to go down stairs and see im, as soon as I had smoothed my hair. I ound him in the drawing-room with my father, and my father presented me to him.

"Hallam, my daughter Anne." "My daughter Anne" put out her hand. and it was enclosed straightway between a arge palm and fingers-enclosed, but not grasped. I was small and cool; Mr. Hallam, the contrary, large and nervous. What to o with my hand when he had got possession it, or what to respond to the salutation that made him, he seemed equally at a loss to know. He stood high above me, a tall handome young man, looking into my face with a trangely-startled gaze, fluttering my hand up

"This is our youngest, our little school girl,"

and down with a feeble irresolute touch.

aid my father; "she is not much like Carry, is No, certainly !"

His eyes turned to Caroline's face with a ick, beaming, pleasant look; his fingers opped from my hand, and I retreated to my er's side, taking to myself the consolation that if my own reception had been neither legant nor cordial, my sister's future husband ald at least in regarding her, wear a look of

As for me I thought it likely enough that would take little further notice of me. In is, however, I found myself rather singularly staken. He dined with us that day, and aring the whole time of dinner I was conous of the continual movement of his eyes wards me. I became aware too, that each ne he detected my gaze upon himself he beame strangely disconcerted, to an extent that azed me; he stammered and grew confused what he said ; he even more than once abptly broke off his sentence. I grew both prised and perplexed, yet except for this gular nervousness, I liked him. I preferred a decidedly to either of my other brothersmy conscience smote me for the manner in alone. ich I had received the first announcement of er engagement, and some amende for that cool-

s appeared to me called for. Your husband will have more in him than er Jane's or Harriet's, Carry," I said, though it is a pity he does not break himself that nervous manner."

"Did you think him nervous?" "Am I deaf and blind? He seems to get said. ver it, however, when he is accustomed to

ople; he shows none of it to you or to my

never saw any trace of such a thing in him

"Did you not? Them I suppose I must especially discompose him. I am sorry for that; because, if he begins with a strong dislike to enough. me, he probably won't get ever it.

"My dear he does not dislike you." "How do do you know?"

"He almost said so, Anne. He came to a comfort to me to have some one with us now me no malice. that I could lean upon, and when I looked as if I did not quite understand him, for indeed I did not, he said quickly, "I mean Anne; can't you lean on her? don't you like her?" "And you said-what, Carry?"

"I said you were the youngest, and it seemed strange to talk of leaning on you." I rose up from the fire over which we had

been sitting, and laughed.
"Mr. Hallam has seen in one night what you have not guessed in all your life, Carry !"

It certainly did appear that Mr. Hallam was deeply impressed with the belief of my capabilities as a support, for we had not been acquainted for a couple of days before I perceived that he intended to use me not only to prop up Caroline, but himself. A looker on might have wondered how they had ever got My two eldest sisters were married while I on before I came, so constant now were the was still a girl at school. They both became appeals to me, so eager the question "what the wives of military men, and both within a Anne thought?" "what Anne advised?" vear of their marriage, accompanied their hus- questions, however that they were rarely asked frankly or cheerfully, as though my opinion

and low spirits which had, even already, a now, I at length received a letter from Caromost depressing effect upon her; the more that, fond of him as she was, she was too timid a creature ever at these times to be able to summon courage enough to attempt to I came from school full of a happy plan of rouse him. If she was timid, however, I was message nor my letter, nor could I vote to her now, for she gave me no address.

We had no mother, and our father was not; and when I could not persuade her to her now, for she gave me no address. rouse him. If she was timid, however, I was message nor my letter, nor could I write to interfere with him, I at length took that work upon myself.

cloaked.

with me. Look how brightly the sun has broken over the snow."

He looked up, not upon the sunshine but on me. I had expected a direct refusal to my request; instead of that, with nervous haste he rose; in two minutes I had him in the open air, trampling the frosty ground beside me. There he paced, for two long hours, gloomy as night, yet obedient to every word I Where I went he followed me; what have come if you could have known. I bade him do, he did. I brought him home as the sun was setting, and I went up stairs strange chill feeling of dismay. What was I that this man should so obey me?—doing my slightest bidding with this aspect of spiritless

After this day I made one strong effort to prevent my sister's marriage. I spoke both to my father and to her. Her I made intensely miserable by what I said, and my father I duce him to speak forthwith to Mr. Hallam.

I was present at the interview between them, and I shall not quickly forget the ghasty look of pain that came to Mr. Hallam's face as my father told him our fears of trusting Caroline to his keeping. He was standng up by the fire, and, grasped the mantelshelf with one hand, with a clutch that brought the blood to every vein he listened. When my father ceased to speak, he could only piteously cry-

"You gave me your promise !" "I did," my father said ; "but I gave it in gnorance of what I have since seen, and in morance of what I have heard others." ' From what others ?" he demanded fierce

I came forward and said, "From me." " From you Anne !"

He looked up wildly in my face; then suddenly his head dropped, he laid it down upon the mantel-shelf, and burst into tears. Inexpressibly shocked, I came beside him.

"Frederick, for God's sake, be calm !" Broken with sobs his voice rose up. 'Anne, have mercy on me! Do not take

her from me! She is all I have in the wide world !" The tears were coming to my eyes. My father silently took me and put me from the room. He was a soft-hearted man and he could not stand the sight of Mr. Hallam's misery; but he had a sense of his own digni-

ty also, and, in consideration of it, I suppose, he turned me out before he yielded. I avoided Caroline and went to my own room Half an hour afterwards I was summoned thenee to my father's study. He addressed

me as I entered at once. "Anne he has behaved very well. He has promised to use every effort in his power .-

Things will go on better now, I have no doubt

"Then he is to have Caroline?" "I cannot break their hearts, Anne. They may have something to bear together, but they

would have more to bear apart. I saw Mr. Hallam no more that day. Our next meeting was on the following afternoon. law, and so I told Caroline before we slept, I met him then by chance for a a few moments

> What his feelings towards me might be could not tell, but I went up to him as usual and extended my hand. At once he took and grasped it in both of his.

> "I want to see you," he said, eagerly.—
> "Anne," he cried, "do not take part against us! For God's sake, be you our friend!" "I did not act yesterday out of enmity,"

> His hands dropped from mine ; he grew even ghastly as he asked me,

"Do you mean to repeat what you did yes-

I shook my head. I said-" No." He gave a cry of joy. "God bless you.

The warm tone pained me. I said, sadly

"You have had little cause to bless me, Fred. But, if you are willing, let us be friends

"He almost said so, Anne. He came to I gave him my hand again, and it was clasp-me after dinner, and said that it must be such ed cordially. I believe that, in truth, he bore

It wanted a fortnight to the day fixed for their marrriage. During that fortnight Mr. Hallam was all that we could wish: there were no more fits of gloom. He was cheerful. sensible, affectionate, and my father and Caroline brightened daily. The marriage day came, and she was wedded to him. I bade farewell to them on a bright crisp February morning, and saw no more of them for nine

At the close of the nine months, I was suddenly made an orphan. My father had long suffered from disease of the heart; one evening, as we sat alone together, I heard a half cry from him, and saw his head drop in reality weary and worn out; and before on his breast. When I reached him he was half an hour had elapsed he had fallen asleep. dead.

I sent a telegraphic message to London to the Hallams, begging that Frederick might us at her own door, and I looked again on the come down to me. Sometime upon the fol- face I had not seen for nine months. It might lowing day I hoped to see him and trusting have been nine years, it was so changed. I to him to spare me all the arrangements for could have passed her in the street unconwas cared for because I myself was liked, but the funeral, I shut myself up alone that day always—strange as it seemed, it was certian—with my grief. But I waited for him in vain; In many respects he was a strange man, and as time went on I was by no means heartily satisfied that he should marry my sister.—
he was subject, I soon found, to fits of gloom and low spirits which had, even already.

I waited patiently, in my lonely house for a long fortnight. One evening, when that is the matter with him ?" One day, when he was sitting moodily over time was expired, at last Frederick came. He the fire, I came into the room bonneted and came into the room where I was sitting—the blithe bridegroom, whom I had parted from "Frederick," I said, "get up and come out nine months ago, changed into a wan, worn, haggard man.

I heard his entrance, and rose up. He ut-tered my name as I approached him, then seized the hands that I extended to him, and held them in a convulsive grasp.

"You have been alone," were the only words that burst from his lips, "alone through chill horror. this whole time."
"It could not be helped; I knew you would

"Alone !" he only repeated, shivering "without a creature near you! How could and shut myself in my own room, with a you bear it? I could not live one day

> your journey. You are not strong. Caroline told me you had been unwell."

He raised his eyes, with a sharp suspicious look, to my face; but they staid lifted only for a moment. Suddenly changing into the old, incomprehensible expression of subjecinspired with enough anxiety and alarm to in- tion, they dropped. He did not speak a

"Come to the fire; I will order supper for you. Come and take this seat. It is cold to-

He came and sat down; I seated myself beside him, and asked for news of Caroline .-He had nothing to say but that she was well I tried to make him talk of other subjects but the effort was vain. His mind seemed entire ly filled with that strange haunting horror of my loneliness; again and again, as we sat like one who had lost all self-control, he broke out into the same trembling exclamation, 'Good God! how could you bear it?"

I sat at last quite silent, in deep wonder and distress. I thought it was well that I had been alone. I could ill have stood companionship such as this three weeks ago .-With a woman's instinctive love for manly courage and strength. I began to feel a strange pity and comtempt for this weak nature-these unstrung nerves. I gave him food and wine but they did not restore him to himself. He came back when he had eaten, and crouched again in silence over the fire.

It grew late; the clock over the chimney piece struck eleven. Then I spoke once

"You must be tired, Frederick. After your ourney you had better go and rest." He looked around with a wild shiver.

"No, no; the house is so lonely," he said. Let me stay here. Stay with me, Anne." "We cannot stay here all night." "It would only be for one night. You will be ready to come to-morrow."

"I am not going back with you, Frederick." He looked me wildly in the face; then-"Anne you must come !" he cried. "All

our hope is in you. If you will not come to us, He seized and grasped my hand; his manner was excited in the highest degree. I drew back and shook him from me.

"Mr. Hallam, what do you mean?" I de manded sharply. "Sit still and speak ra-He winced strangely, and shrank back .-

There was a few moments pause; then, in a voice entirely subdued, he asked me-"Did I give you a letter? There was one

He searched in his breast pocket, and brought it forth. "I beg your pardon; you ought to have had it before:

I took it to the light and read it. She had written mostly about her father's death; but at the end of the letter came these words :-"Frederick will ask you to return with him. Anne, do not refuse him! Oh, Anne, if you ever loved me, do not refuse to come !"

I folded up the letter, and went back to the fire where he was sitting. I laid my hand up-on his shoulder. He looked eagerly round.

"Anne," he cried "you will come!"
"Yes, since you both wish it." "Thank God!" he ejaculated; and the first look of composure I had seen came to his

" And now, that this is settled, Frederick,

He rose up in silence : but the ghastly palor of cheek and lip, as he prepared to obey me, so shocked and startled me, that I abruptly checked his departure. Unmauly and pitiable as it was, there was no mistaking his intense fear of solitude; and in his weak and unstrung state I did not feel that I dared to force it on

"I am not going away yet," I said. "If you prefer to stay here, I will wheel this sofa forward, and you can lie down, before the

He accepted my offer eagerly. "I am not used to strange rooms; I am

afraid I should not sleep," he muttered. He lay down, and I threw a cloak over him. I sat down in sight of him and read. He was

We sat out together next morning, and reached London by nightfall. My sister met scious that she was kith or kin of mine.

I restrained my surprise and pain until we were together in my room. Then I stood up

" Caroline, what does this mean ?" She had been trying to talk and smile. At my question all feigned composure gave away. burst into tears and answered me. I might have guessed it. She was breaking her

minutes, from morning to night. He is so wretched himself that it half kills me to see bim. Oh, Anne ! what is the matter ?-what

I tried during the day that followed to discover the answer to that question. Alas, when I thought at length that I had discovered it, it was no answer that I could tell his wife. Everything I saw forced upon me the conviction that the crushing weight upon Mr. Hallam's mind was some crushing remorse .-Day by day I tried to forget and thrust it back the more vehemently it forced itself upon me. I began to live under the pressure of a strange,

We passed a fortnight miserably enough .-Mr. Hallam never left the house. Almost his entire time was spent in silence and inaction -stooping over the fire. If he was roused or spoken to, a face of such infinite despair would rise before us, that many a time its expression wrung my heart. Sometime a "Frederick, you have tired yourself with momentary brightening in his look would of mine. Trying to crush it, I answered quick cheer us for a few seconds; sometimes, and ly and contemptuouslythat, alas, more frequently, his dumb, listless misery would warm into a wild and feverish

excitement. We never left him, for his strongest terror was that of solitude. Day and night Caro line, or I sat with him. He had been fond of music, and even yet he seemed to take some thing like pleasure in it. Heavy as our hearts were, I therefore often played, and his nearest approaches to content seemed during the moments that he sat listening to me.

A fortnight had passed thus : at the end of

it one evening this happened. It was dark, but we had no candle ; the fire was burning brightly, and I had gone to the piano, and sat there playing. Mr. Hallam had risen from his seat and was pacing the room. Caroline had come to my side

I was playing softly, and suddenly from my sister's lips a cry rung through the room. Before I could speak, white with terror, and with outstreched arms, she started from her seat. I sprang up too. I could see nothing ; the room was all as usual; but, while gasping out her husband's name, she staggered one step towards him, and then fell. Before she reached the ground I caught her in my arms, but she had fainted.

" Frederick, help me !" I called He was standing before an open drawer, looking wild and excited; but at my call he down at my feet.

"What is it ?" "She has fainted; raise her up." He stooped and raised her. I bade him fol-

low me, and went towards the door; but when

I reached it he had not moved. Turning round I saw him still standing wildly gazing upon and passionately kissing his wife's white I did not speak, and in two or three moments he came and joined me, and we left the room together. We went up stairs, and he

laid Caroline on her bed. Then I rang the bell and summoned help. A servant came to me at once. I bade her see to her mistress, and leaving them, I hurried back down stairs. Mr. Hallam had gone a second or two before me. I found him again in the drawing room, when I noislessly re-entered, before his escrutoire, where he had stood when Caroline fainted. He was stooping towards the fire, examining the muzzle of a pistol by its

I stole up behind him and before he was conscious of my presence I had caught his arm with the strength of both of my hands. He turned round, wild eyed and furious. "Let me alone !" he shouted "Devil !-let

He tried to shake himself free. I do not know whence my strength came, but against his power, I kept my hold.

"Lay down that pistol !" I cried. He kept it clutched fast. "Lay down that pistol." Our eyes were full met, and staid so for a wild fierceness gone, shaking and shivering like a child. I locked the weapon in the drawer; then I could stand no longer. I

many—and a hurried hand was laid upon the door. The servant I had left with Caroline gave me an unnatural strength. For seven

"Miss King," she said nervously, "would you come up stairs? I don't know what is the matter with my mistress." I made Mr. Hallam accompany me, and we

returned to Caroline's room. She was still almost unconscious, but moaning in pain. In half an hour two physicians were at her bedside, and that night she was delivered of a dead

III.

It was four o'clock in the morning, but still dark as midnight, for we were in the midst of winter. The commotion of the last hours was over. Caroline's room was hushed and, motionless and almost insensible, she lay between life and death. In another room, alone with its white limbs composed, rested the little form whose eyes had never opened to the lightthe human body that had never held a living

Over the still burning drawing-room fire I sat with Mr. Hallam. I had tried to induce him to retire to rest, but he would not go .-Blanched over cheek and lip, his very teeth chattering like a man in deadly terror, he sat beside me, holding my hand in his with a force that crushed the flesh.

" How firm the eyes were closed, he kept tremulously muttering. "Did you notice, Anne?—and the clenched hands, as if there had been a struggle! Could it have fought for life? Oh, the third !- the third !"

gasped. "How many more?"
He chilled me with his wild whisperings, until my heart grew faint. I asked him at

last, sharply,

"What do you mean?" My question brought a scared look from him, but no response. He ceased, however to mutter to himself, and for a minute we were both silent; then, touched by the half contemptuous pity that constantly awoke in me when I perceived him quelled by my voice or look, I said more gently than I had spoken at

"Why do you keep whispering these things to yourself, Frederick? What do you mean

He turned his face around to me as I spoke and a wild fierce light sprang to his eyes.
"What do I mean by them? Do you want me to tell you?" he cried.

His changed aspect startled me; but I concealed my fear. I said, calmly, "Yes-or I would not have asked you." He held his gaze steadfastly upon my face.

As he sat gazing at me, something dawning in that look made my blood curdle. "Shall I I tell you?" he said, sharply The fear was creeping over me with no will

" Mr. Hallam, we are not a pair of child-

ren If you have anything to tell me, tell it at once. Do you mean to speak ?" "Hush, Anne!" he said. "Anne." whispered, "bend nearer. Oh, it is horrible to tell you !"-he was shivering from head to foot-"but I must tell some one. I cannot bear it longer! Are you ready? Anne?" he

cried. "I have shed blood!" " Mr. Hallam, you are mad !" I leapt to my feet. I cast his grasping hand away from me. High above his voice sprang my cry, and he answered with a wild

shout of agony. "Oh, that I were mad !" he cried; "that God would have that mercy on me, to strike me mad! Anything, anything to escape this torture ! Oh, Anne, turn your face away ; do not look at me with those dreadful eyes! have got my secret. Have mercy on me, have

mercy on me now!" With limbs that were turning into stone with pulses that seemed ceasing to beat, I stood, pity crushed out of me; all emotion concentrated and hardened into one unutterable and incredulous horror. I could not speak my cold lips would not unclose to ask one ques tion; but perhaps he read my face, for he came after I do not know how many moments had elapsed, and passionately cast himself

"You do not believe me?" he cried ; "you cannot believe me. But it is true, Anne !-As God sees me, is true! Stand still-you shall listen! I had a friend-Frank Hillyard and we quarreled. I took up a pistol that lay upon his table, and shot him dead! Again I met the woman who was to have married him, and she suspected me, and threatened me. I put my two hands around her throat" -he looked up, and his eyes were like devil's, glaring at me from the ground,-"and stran-

led her! Ah! Stand still, Anne!" he cried. It was the last word that I heard. His voice had risen to a shriek. Trying to move and fly, I fell. A mist was over eyes and brain, and recollect no more.

We were still in the room alone together when I awakened. He had raised and laid me on the sofa; he himself crouching like a wild animal, was again at my feet.

I lifted myself up, and slowly and fearfully the recollection of what I had heard came back to me,-hideous, unreal-like the memory of a nightmare. I rose up; pressed my hand other, Dr. Kane softly turned the handle. upon my forehead, and tried to clear my voice. I went forward and stood above him.

"Are you mad?" I faintly asked him, s what you have told me true?" He lifted his haggard face, and broken and oneless came his voice-

" As I stand before God it is true!" I staid to hear no more. Breaking from him, I fled from the room and through the unlighted hall, into which the dim winter dawn

was stealing.

My life, thank God, has given me no second moment; then his dropped. I moved one experience so terrible as that of the week that band from his arm, and laid it on the pistol; followed Mr. Hallam's confession. I would he let me take it. He stood before me, his not live it again for a king's ransom.

During that week I had him with me in my sister's sick room for the greater part of every day, and for the whole of every night, for drawer; then I could stand no longer. I way, and for the whole of the sank into a seat, and we neither of us spoke again.

Some moments passed—I do not know how days and nights I never closed my eyes for one entire hour. With a restless, feverish, undefined terror, I watched over my sister, driving sleep from me. Mr. Hallam never came near her bed, never looked at her, never spoke to her but my eyes were on him. He knew, too, that I watched him, and possessed as I was of his secret, the fear he had always had of me became this week unutterable. But I rejoiced in that fear now. It was my strength.

This misery, I say, I endured for seven days. At the end of that time the tidings were given to me that my sister was out of danger. To me they were given, not to Mr. Hallam, for throughout her illness, by tacit consent, all

communications from the physician who attended her had been made to me. Mr. Hallam had scarcely seen him Yet to-day it happened that while Dr. Kane talked with me, he for a moment entered the room in which we were. Dr. Kane had his face to the door and he

perceived his entrance and went forward to "Hr. Hallam," he said, cheerfully, "we have good news for you to-day. I think we may call our patient out of danger."

Mr. Hallam stood still. His eyes glanced up and flashed. 'Out of danger-who?" he cried.

"Frederick!" I said. He looked at me, seemed startled, pressed his hand upon his forehead.

"Ah, I forgot. I beg your pardon. Out of danger-is she ?" he said. There was a moment or two's strange pause. Then, with an effort, I turned Dr. Kane's attention back to me. I trusted that while we spoke Mr. Hallam would leave us, and he did. Dr. Kane took up his hat-his hand was

extended to me. Suddenly he brought his eyes up to my face.
"Mr. Hallam is not well," he said, abruptly

I felt my color flushing over cheek and brow, but I answered calmly-

"He does not complain." "Is he in good spirits?" I trembled at that question with a sickening dread, the horrible terror of discovery that continually haunted me. My eyes fell before they answered; they could not bear the keen gaze that confronted them.

"He has not high spirits." Dr. Kane looked at me sharply. He stood still for several moments, but he spoke no more. His hand was again extended.

"Good morning, Miss King." He turned from me, and I breathed again. Alas, he was not yet gone! He reached the door, then paused, hesitated, finally came

back, and again addressed me. "Miss King," he began abruptly-and if the color had come to my cheek before, it left it now as white as marble-" I do not know you suspect-I half think you do ; I feel, in any case that I ought to speak to you about what you may be forced to hear soon. My dear young lady, I am afraid it will not be possible to keep it concealed much longer, if, indeed, it is concealed now. I am very much afraid some steps must soon-'

So far, as I stood frozen, he spoke : but his sentence reached no termination.

" Anne !" suddenly shouted Mr. Hallam's voice from the door,-and I broke from Dr. Kane and fled. I tried to rush straight up stairs, but my

brother stood in the hall and caught me by my arm. He caught and shook me, his face white, the wildest fury in his eye. "You were betraying me !" he hissed into

I was not, so help me God !" "You devil, if that is a lie--!"

gers round my throat. A cry-a sort of gasp -burst from me, and in another moment Dr Kane's figure was between us 'Mr. Hallam !" With a guilty start the fingers unloosed; I sprang from their hold and rushed up stairs;

His face was close to mine; he had his fin-

a few seconds afterwards the hall door was opened and closed, and I heard Dr. Kane's carriage drive away. I went back as soon as I was able to my sister's room, and I sat beside her undisturbed for several hours. Happily for me-for the emotion, whose entire signs I could not suppress, might else have betrayed me-during

these hours she slept. Where Mr. Hallam was I did not know. It was past mid-day when, sitting in silence. through the door that was not quite closed my ear caught the murmur of voices whispering in the hall. The sound might not have not attracted me ; it did not at first ; but suddenly I heard, or thought I heard, within it the voice of Dr. Kane. At that I rose up silently.

and crept from the room. I descended the stairs midway, and, unperceived myself, looked down. I was right; Dr. Kane was in the hall, and with him another gentleman. Both were speaking in a low voice to the servant who admitted them, but the parley was almost at an end; while I looked, the two gentlemen went forward along the hall, at one end of which was the diningroom. I saw them stand together a moment before that door; then with one look at each

They entered the room, but almost at the same instant I was beside them. Before the opened door could be closed against me, I stood upon the threshold.

They both saw me and paused. They made one hurried effort to bar my entrance. stood, wild-eyed and determined, and they let me alone and passed in.

They advanced in silence to where, before the fire, Mr. Hallam sat. They did not speak, nor he perceive them till they were half across the room; then suddenly he heard their steps, experience so terrible as that of the week that and turned. I saw the first look he gave them, haggard and wild with fear; another moment and he had leapt upon his feet, a cry