UNDER A SHADOW

Continued.

true painter?" said Alison.

more beautiful even than those snining purer than these reigned in supreme calm and crimson lips. from the walls of the galleries so rich in Unconsciously she had raised herself to loveliness.

care so much about art."

'Young' repeated Alison. to me, I have lived my life.'

He looked at her again. 'Lived your life l' he repeated. 'How

'I lived, I loved, and I died,' she said musingly. 'The best part of me died; in art. Painters had risen and won great that is a living life, is it not?"

to have had such experience.'

the name of life.'

wonderful genius. remember that I taught her.'

her that she was not taking care of her- knees, with one cry on her lips: self, then he would forget and let her work harder than ever.

living child.

long, graceful bluebells, and is binding live two lives? she wondered. Was the them with a long, trailing clematis spray, old dull life in Wigmore Street-the and from the thickest part of the cle-dream of passion, of love and anguish in I was so young when I fell that Heaven again never to have committed it. matis, close to the girl's white hand, a Florence-reality or not? There were snake protrudes its hideous head, just times when she hardly knew, when she ready to bite. One reads the story at a looked at her own magnificent beauty in glance—the snake will sting, and the the mirror, and said to herself: girl will die of the wound.

A simple picture, but the treatment was so grand, the colouring so exquisite, it would have borne comparison with the works of the finest artists living. You could almost smell the wild roses, they looked so sweet; you could almost hear the ring of the bluebells in the wind, and the bright-eyed birds seemed to pour forth a volume of song. The hidden meaning of that picture was known only to the young artist herself, the girl who had been in such haste to gather the roses of life, and had found a serpent beneath them.

An Idea had occured to Alison-a something to live for. When she first began to recover from her illness and her

age, and caused her to persevere, that led lilies, with hearts of gold, stood like naher to work as few women work, to win ture's fairest challices. It looked like what few women win.

CHAPTER XXXV.

FAME AND REMORSE For some years now the world had been keenly alive to the talent and merit of a new artist, who had sprung suddenly genius could not be concealed, others, that she was a Spanish lady, driven from home on account of political differences, and that she had flung herself into the

"You are so very young," he said "to pictures that made men the better for the labor of her own hands had created 'Am I? I from earth to heaven, that purified the ings of amber and white flowers that look- the heaven he might win. had forgotten it. The years are nothing senses, that made one long for a higher, ed as though they had grown in Fairy-Just at this time there was a new phase fragrant garden.

'Yes but I repeat, that you are young in subjects better left alone-painters of the white lilies, the purple passion flow-'I shall live, perhaps, many years,' said medium—the religion of art. So the art- She is very much altered; there is little to the blue shining heavens as she pass-Alison; but it will be in my art; away tist became famous and, after her pictures trace in the beautiful woman the success- ed through the vines and olives, from that my existence barely deserves were widely spread and well known, peo- ful artist of Alison Trente the simple won-Long and deeply did the good professor herself. But those inquires no one could wrong' and suffered the martyrdom of ponder over this lovely young girl, with answer-no one knew anything about her passion. You could not tell that this her dark eyes, her musical voice, her She had been a pupil of Signor Cluadio, grand and noble woman had ever gone through the world just as they could. 'Her name will live,' he said to himself even said that she was English, but no at times traces of deep pain, of deep inenvitable portions. Alison came to the long after I shall be dead. It will live, one listning to the pure, fluent, musical thought—the traces of a history that had wherever art is loved. How strange a Italian that fell from her lips could be never been told in words—that same un- woman and sent the little children to name it is-Asalita Ferrari-An Italian lieve that. So Asalita Ferrira became derlying sadness which gave the subtle school; and when the poor widow sobbed name, the name of an Italian artist; yet famous, her name known wherever art charm to her pictures. she is English, this dark-eyed pupil of was known, her name honoured by all Asalita Ferrari as she loves to call hermine. Where does the fire of her genius men reverenced by all women. The self, lies back in her chair, thinking deepoome from? She herself is of cold north. newspapers, the Critics, all spoke of her ly: she is wondering how far she has reern race, though the fire of the South lives as the woman who had raised art, who deemed that terrible past of hers. She

He was so earnest, so zealous in his raising their minds and hearts from has fallen from heaven-forget it!-thinks desire for her improvement, that he at earth. High praise-none could be of her art, of what she teaches by it, of times overtaxed her strength. He seem. higher. Asalita read these critiques at the good she has done and hopes to doed to forget that she could not work like times-words which prophesied that her thinks of the little green grave in Flora man—that she required some fresh air, name would be held in reverence when ence, but forgets almost the sin and the some excercise, some rest. If he saw other names were dead. As she read a suffering. that the beattiful tints of her face had faint smile would seem to quiver over paled ever so little, he would cry out to her lips, and then she would fall on her face burns with shame. If any one were ter of the evil one,' they said, 'Dying? better times, set sail for England.

"God be merciful to me a sinner!" She knew others might think she stood All this work produced its fruit in the on a pedestal, that she was a pure, highend. After two years' hard study, passed minded genius; she knew before Heaven without any holiday, any relaxation' any that she was a miserable sinner. She rest, he allowed her to attempt her first never used her old name of Alison Trente picture. How she loved it! How she now. Alison Trente died long years ago; that would even care to know that she clear and golden in the sky, and the her arrival in England, and the need for worked at it! How dear it became to Alison Trente was a lost woman, an outher! She loved it as though it had been a cast-a deserted, lonely, desolate girl. Alison Trente had no place on the wide It was but a simple picture, yet, years world—she was a subject for scorn and afterward, the world went mad about it mockery; Alison Trente was dead, there -tne figure of a young, sweet-faced girl, let her lie. But Asalita Ferrari, the seated in the shade of a wood, birds artist, the genius—the woman who could changed and destroyed her identity that Heaven in its goodness may forgive, going away. swaying the boughs overhead, a little take men's hearts to heaven-that was brook singing at her feet, a nest of blue- quite another thing. She had almost bells on her right hand, at her left a bank forgotten her own name; she said it over of wild thyme, with a wild-rose hedge. at times, with a half-wondering, half-She had gathered sprays of wild-roses, pathetic sigh. Alison Trente! Did people

> 'Can I be Alison Trente?' Genius is not always appreciated; men have worked, toiled, and died without recognition of their fame, and after death the world, the busy, gay world, has stopped for a few short moments to raise statues to them, to enshrine them in sacred niches, to give them laurel crowns, then has gone laughing on; but, contrary to the rule, fame had come to Asalita never hoped to be.

had come to her; she might possibly re- dwelt there-a house that was like a that charmed Alison. deem herself by art. If she painted pict- poem, that seemed to laugh in the sunures so pure so beautiful that mens hearts light, and stand proudly among the were the better and purer that their eyes flowers. Vines in rich festoons hung had seen them, then surely she could live round it, orange and myrtle trees vied down her sin. The artist might redeem with lilies and roses-all sweet flowers the sins of the woman and undo the that bloom seemed to congregate there. Pomegranates blossomed, passion-flowers It was that hope which gave her cour. raised their mystical heads, great white the home of a poet, but it was where Asalita Ferrari, whom we have known as Alison Trente, lived.

And there, on this fair summer day she sits. It is not often that she relaxes, but it is impossible for her to work today; the heat is so intense, it is just as into fame. There were many tales told much as she can do to bear it. She has of her. Some said that she was a French- been compelled to lay down her brushes, woman of high birth, whose artistic to put away her easel, and give up work. She has gone to her favorite room, a fairy like boudoir, opening to a garden filled with trees and flowers.

Yes, that is Alison Trente-Asalita vortex of art: others said she was an Ferrari, as she calls herself, loathing her Italian, born in a dim old city in Italy, old name—that magnificently beautiful and that she came from a whole family woman reclining in the chair of crimson of artists-it was therefore no wonder velvet, her thoughtful face turned to the that she loved art so well. Let her be flowers, her dark, eloquent eyes with their who and what she might, she was just slumbrous fire and passion drinking in then the wonder of the age. Her pic- the lovely tints of the flowers. It is here tures were sold for almost fabulous sums; that the gifted artist dreams of those the least little sketch bearing her name pictures that afterward made her famous; was worth more than its weight in gold. it is here that the graceful designs, the There was no mistaking her peculiar beautiful figures, the gorgeous colors come style; most of her paintings were slightly before her, first of all in a waking dream, allegorical, all of them full of graceful re- to be reproduced on canvas at her will. finement and exquisite beauty of coloring. Alison Trente! One feels inclined to bow She excelled above all in female figures; before her as before a queen, so royal is her female faces were all distinguished she in her womanly beanty and queenly for their delicate loveliness, their fair, genius. She is plainly dressed, but the spirituelle beauty, the strange, subtle robes of a queen, diamonds and cloth of sadness that seemed to lie even on the gold, would not have suited her as this pray: most laughing lips, that seemed to linger simple dress does. It was her own dein the brightest eyes; the lovely, laugh- sign, something like the dress that Grisi ing flowers that she painted, in all the used to wear in 'Norma-a plain white beauty of sun and dew, had the same robe, fastened round the waist with a terrible fever broke out there, and people make her eagerly welcomed there. sweet, subtle charm-one forgot the golden belt, and falling in statuesque died by the hundred. While that fever | She would be sure to see Colonel Mon-

fairest forms there was nothing even the greatest advantage the beautiful wards of the hospital her name was well was wondering if he would recognize her ever so slightly approaching the volup- lines of her figure, the graceful curves. known; her face was better known still; -if he would see in the Artist, welcomed

the hightest pinnacle of art; she painted magnificence, which was all her ownlooking at them, that raised the heart this earthly paradise; it had superb hang- the hands of a little child, telling him of cognize her; he would, in common with holier life-and no art goes further than land, pictures and statues, easy chairs and that. Her pictures might have been lounges that tempted one to repose and hung in churches, where they would have what Asalita valued more than anything, done good, being in themselves so good. its windows looked out on that beautiful,

She sits there no., watching the sunfame; there were painters who delighted tight on the roses, watching the gleam of uncertainty to its look of peaceful hope before her, believing her to be the Italian devotional subject; but this was a happy ers wrapped in her dream of beauty. wearied, and sad. She raised her eyes ple began to make anxious inquires about dering, impulsive girl who had 'gone asked, 'is it forgotten yet?' but he could tell nothing about her; he wrong; on the broad low brow there were

in her eyes and in her soul. She will be had done the world good service by her owns to herself that, so completely is she great some day, then it will be for me to beautiful pictures, who had helped men absorbed in her art, there are times when and women on the road to heaven by she absolutely forgets that she, like a star

> to rise suddenly and denounce her, to tell Let her die!' But Alison went to nurse the story of her wrong and her fall, to her; she watched while the last remnant tell of those five months in Florence, she of life went out from the babbling, restand her name no one would care for it, knelt, weeping bitter tears, and praying smiled to herself as she read, a bitter, no one would be interested in it. Alison with all her soul that God would pardon half-cynical smile; there was something Trente was better dead than alive. Asalita her. Ferrari was better living than dead. She -if she could by this great, good, honest, she had done so much evil.

'I have read,' she thought, 'that a wommight well take pity on me. Shall I be more even than the place I lost or will the sin of my youth rise in judgment against me, and shame me even in my hour of triumph?

The sin of her youth-the sin for which woman finds no pardon, man so little blame! It was a problem and her life had

CHAPTER XXXVI.

OFF FOR ENGLAND.

while she lived, and not only fame but No matter in what language that sermon in the highest and truest sense of the gold. She could command any price was preached, no matter of what persua- word; it had been a passion born of his now for her pictures, men were willing to sion the eloquent man who uttered the great admiration for her-born of flattery pay all she asked. She was rich beyond beautiful words, but the sermon for the and praise, and compliment-not love, her wildest dreams-rich as she had encouragement of those who, having as she knew now what true and pure The summer sun shone brightly over He told of women who had spent long so blind, so foolish, so wicked? She had senses had returned to her, when the the mighty towers and steeples of Rome years in sighing and weeping; he told of read some years ago of his marriage. glamour of false love and flattery no long- -a hot, brilliant sun, in whose heat it others who had deliberately tried by every | The Countess of Cardyne was always to er bewildered her, she was almost ready was almost impossiple to work-heatthat good and charitable deed that it was in be heard, or rather, read of, in the fasinto die with humiliation and remorse. drew strong perfume from the flowers, their power to perform, to redeem the ionable intelligence of the day. Alison She felt she had sinned beyond forgive- and made even the little birds languid evil they had done. He said that hands some times saw an English paper. She ness, that she could never hold up her and weak. A beautiful villa stood at stained by sin could be cleansed by never read of a state ball or a grand fete head in the sunlight again, that she could some distance from the grand old city- charity, and he described a brave and at which Lady Cardyne did not shine. never meet her fellow-creatures, that a villa enshrined in flowers. Looking at noble life, all repentance, all atonement, She often, too, read the name of Madame

> 'It m: st have been my good genius that led me here,'she said; and from that hour a great change came over her.

to herself that she repented of her sinthat she would blot it out by charity, by good deeds.

Alas! the fallen star never shines again in the skies. A woman who has once been lost might have the world as her empire, yet among good and honorable women she would never regain her place.

In all Rome there was no one like the great artist, Madame Ferrari, as she was called. If any one was in distress, either of body or mind, he went to her. She fed the hungry and consoled the afflicted: she was always busy. She refused to leave her studio to receive fine ladies and great noblemen. She had one standing instinct that she was not an Italian. excuse for them-she was always busy; but the poor who sought, and who worshipped her beantiful face, to them she England?" was always visible; they never asked for

her and asked in vain. ple Roman peasants, of the lovely lady much there; her associations with her who left her beautiful house her painting own native land were all most melancand came to minister to them. They told holy and sorry; but like every one else of little children who had died in her arms | Alison clung to life, sad as she found it: their little eyes fixed in wonder to the and when the physician told her his med- in the largest number of words made up last on that sweet sad face; they told of icine would be all in vain, that what she from the letters contained in the words women who had died with their heads on wanted was a colder and more bracing her breast, and their last word a prayer climate, she resolved upon returning to for her; of men who had blessed her and her own country. thanked her with tears; they called her every loving and tender name, these sim- sat in her easy chair watching the sun- year's subscription to the Globe. ple people and in the early morning dawn light on the flowers. She knew at once when she returned from a nights watch- that her position in England would be appears in those words. ing or in the starlight when she went to very different to what it had been before. it she would raise her clasped hands and

tuous: there was no diablerie in her The hands that lie just now so listlessly, and one day having heard that she could by the noble and great, the girl he had laughing women and fair-faced girls— are characteristic ones-white and slen- speak English they took her to the fever wooed, won, and deserted. Would be nothing that chained a man's senses to der, supple and graceful, with pink palms ward where an Englishman lay dying recognize in the beautiful woman the in-"And I shall live to be an artist—a earth. Heaven lay in the faces she and beautifully shaped fingers; the face, and no one could understand him, No nocent girl whose dreams had been of art painted-all purity all goodness; looking so beautiful in its spirituelle, eloqueut one would have thought her a fallen wom- not of love? She was not averse to seeing Her teacher looked at her beautiful face at them, one wondered what heaven loveliness, the dark, dreamy eyes; the an who saw her kneeling there, whisper- him; she disliked him; he was to her the more beautiful than that of any model, would be like, where angels brighter and mouth like a rose; the low Grecian brow ing in the dulling ears the sweet story of true type of all that was most selfish and Alison Trente lived in the midst of this the dying man had not heard since he had changed him-if Lady Cardyne love-

in his faint, hoarse voice.

'I am a miserable sinner!' she replied, with a sudden outburst of sorrow.

She stayed with him until he died; she and rest, then she went home, tired,

'Is it forgotten? Oh, my God!' she

A strong man died, leaving his wir and five helpless little children to battle Hunger and starvation seemed to be rescue. She bought a business for the out blessings and prayers, and thanked her, Alison asked again:

'My God! is it forgotten?' When the fever raged a man and hi

wife died, leaving two little orphans, who had neither kith nor kin. Alison adopted them-sent them where they would

What touched the simple people, who Trente.' loved her, more than all, was her good- It might be, she thought, some time ness to a poor lost Magdalen, who had before she visited again the land of her been a scandal to the city. When, in the adoption. She went to Florence, where flush of her beanty and wickedness, the she loaded Matteo and his wife with gifts fever struck her down, no one seemed and she kissed the grass waving above When she remembers it the beautiful willing to nurse her. 'She was a daugh- the tiny grave, and then, with a hope for would die of the horror of it, but less life. The poor outcast died with her there was no fear, she said to her- head on that kindly breast, blessing her was taken for the celebrated lady artist, lived? If she were to proclaim herself memory of it shamed her-when she

Perhaps He did He never refuses. said to he self that she had so completely But she had sinned the sin which, though there would never be any fear. She was women never forget. That she could wondering as she sat there if it could be ever have been so blind, so foolish, so mad, so wicked, puzzled her. Looking honorable life atone for the past, in which back, it seemed to her that the girl who had sinned this sin was other than her self. She would freely, cheerfully, willan once fallen can never regain her place ingly have give her life over and over

Yet at times she almost forgot it when the exception to the rule?-shall I regain the world lay at her feet, and men raved at her genius-when she saw gold pouring in upon her and fame crowning herwhen she saw the magnificence of her SHEET womanhood, and knew that some of the best men in Rome would have given she saw herself courted, so admired, she lost sight of that one cloud which overshadowed her life.

Of lovers she might have had plenty but she detested even the name. When she looked back over her past she felt Asalita had entered a church one day. that she had not loved Colonel Montague left the right path, had gone back to it. love meant. How could she have been she was lost and an outcast. But a hope it, one felt sure no commonplace person all charity and goodness, an ideal life D'Isio, and from the circumstance, she imagined that the prince's mother was

living with her grandchild. Of late Alison had not been well. One day a wild, feverish, irrepressible longing She examined her life hourly; she said to see her child's grave came over her, and she went to Florence. A violent thunder-storm came on as she knelt there and she was drenched with rain. The violent cold that she caught seemed not to leave her for some time; then she fell into a languid, feeble state of health. One of the doctors she called in told her it was the result of over-exertion-that she must rest, and give up painting for some little time. Most unwillingly she complied, but that did not suffice, after two months of enforced rest she felt but

> She called in another doctor of great skill and fame, who seemed to know by

'Summer in Italy does not suit you,' he said. 'Could you pass the summer in

At first she was unwilling. Of her own free will she would never have cared to What stories they told of her those sim- see England again. She had suffered

It was of that she was thinking as she

No one knew Alison Trente, but all England would recognize name the Asa- early. 'Is it forgotten? Oh, my God! is it for- lita Ferrari; her fame and her wealth would enable her to mix in the best soci-Once while she remained in Rome a ety, and she knew that her genius would contest. Address,

world looking at these pictures. In her folds to the feet; a dress that showed to lasted Alison put away her work. In the tague, now Lord Cardyne, again. She P. O. Box, 315.

mercy and love whispered prayers that base; but she wondered how the years was a child, taking his burning, death- ed him-if he were happy in his life stricken hands in her own as she would -if he loved his wife. He would not reevery one else, believe her dead; but it 'You are an angel!' whispered the man would be a grand triumph to her to meet him on an equal-he who had treated her as he did the dead leaves under his feet. She lay back with a smile on her lips, such as one never sees on the lips risked the infection; she watched his face of a happy woman, picturing to herself change from its haggard expression of how he would bow his handsome head artist Asalita-how be would compliment her. And she-how well she would recognize the voice, and the worth

She would go to England-go to London, where she would be feted like a queen! She was not to resume her work just yet. She would give herself what she never really enjoyed before-a holiday. She had worked hard; she had accummulated vast wealth. Surely now she might enjoy her life a little.

Her spirits rose as she thought of it After all there is something in the love that one has for the native land like no other love. It would be a charmed life that she should lead there. As she rose across the room, she said to herself:

'In England no one will recognize me; be well fed, well clothed, well educated, there is no trace left in me of Alison

CHAPTER XXXVII. A NEW LIFE.

A beautiful little house at Richmond self over and over again--no fear. Alison with her last breath. Was it forgotten? the Signorina Asalita Ferrari. The papers Trente was dead; who was there living There were nights when the stars shone all devoted to her one paragraph, stating rest and a more bracing climate. Alison in success after all. Who would have noticed her coming ten years ago. No newspaper paragraph had told of her

To be continued.

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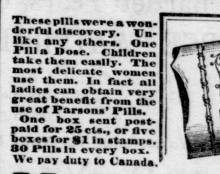
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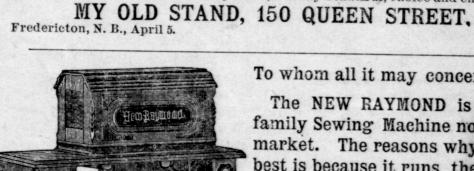
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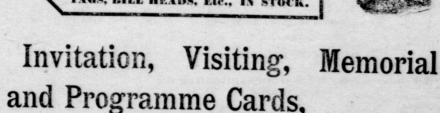
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