Deacon Snowden's Daughter.

BY ELSIE LEIGH WHITTLESEY. Rosalia Snowden was barely sixteen when the new era in her life began-an era which, of course, had for its grand master-impulse the fond, foolish fancy common to girls of that perilous age, and which, in their baby innocence, they invariably call by the name of love. The only daughter of grim, old Deacon Snowden, a churchman of the most rigid and bigoted sort, poor Rosa had little hope of her father ever looking kindly on the worldly "lord of her destiny," whom she veritably believed to be a prince in disguise, like those she had read about in the story-books, and who would come for her, by-and-by, in a golden coach, drawn by four milkwhite steeds, and they would be so happy together in a palace by the sea, where there were flowers and music, and perfumes to gladden every sense, and

delight. And this prince was really only Mr. Hubert Davenport, the son of a wealthy New York merchant, who was spending the summer with his uncle, Judge Davenport, at Oakland, a little village on the Hudson, something less than a mile distant from the quaint old Snowden farm-house.

Rosalia happened to meet him one morning while on her way to school, and from this trivial circumstance their acquaintance began. One may speak to a little country school-girl without encroaching upon the proprieties; so he bade her good-morning, carried her books for her, and made himself so agreeable, generally that she was quite charmed, and thought Judge Davenport's nephew the very handsomest and the very best of all created beings. His blue eyes, blonde moustache and soft white hands were things to dream about; for girls of sixteen build very large castles out of very small material. Then, too, he was tall, broadshouldered and well-educated, and had besides, a pleasant voice, a winning smile and gentle, wooing ways, such as could not fail to impress favorably a fresh, young heart like Rosalia's.

Time passed on; they met frequently. He sent her flowers, books and music. She speedily learned to love both gifts and giver, and to eagerly wait for his coming in the cool shady lane, where the Lombardy poplars grew straight and high above the gray old wall, and the meadow larks sang joyously in the still, dewy brightness of the early morning.

One day he gave her a volume of Shakespeare's plays, beautifully bound in blue and gold, and superbly illustrated. Rosalia was nearly wild with delight, and exclaimed, as she folded this most precious of all her treasures to her heart.

"I had rather have written them than been Queen of England! If ever the world calls me, and I feel sometimes that it will, I shall be an actress."

The key-note had been sounded, and already the future, with its griefs. triumphs, disappointments and sorrows, loomed darkly over Rosalia's unconscious head.

And she was so lovely, this young, willful, impulsive daughter of Deacon Snowden's, that one could but tremble when they looked into her dark, lustrous eyes, and read there the latent power and ambition that filled her awakening soul. All too soon the charm was broken, and faith, romance and love took wing like a frightened bird, and flew away, so very far away, that poor Rosa could not tell whither they had gone, or why their going had left her so utterly and hopelessly desolate.

Never yet did lovers walk in shady anes for any length of time without ing or thinking-it were hard to tell being seen by somebody inimical to its which further continuance, and this hostile somebody, in Rosalia's case, chanced to be a no less implacable person than her profusion, were scattered everywhere own father.

it ended in Mr. Snowden sternly com- expression for one who could count so

See him no more! Rosalia now knew none disputed. port again? She could not give the lashes required promise. The new love was bellion was in every flash of her proud, is never finished, a heartache that never defiant eyes, in every movement of her ends, praises that are but hollow mockrestless little hands, and in the very eries, love that is only a name for notears that glistened, large and bright, thing, and triumphs that die with the on her warm, flushed cheeks. Her footlights. Oh, my mother, if I were father saw it, and bitter, indeed, were only with you again, and the old, old

you are, that Hubert Davenport is but | Eight years change one so. Eight playing with you—that he really cares | years! Can it be so long ago since the no more for you than he does for the something happened that made me veriest beggar that walks the streets? what I am? He is rich, heartless and worldly, and But Adelaide Stewart could not afford girls, such as you, are his pleasure and to indulge in such saddening reflections, cried Rosalia, leaving her mother's arms, his pastime. You are easily won and for she was to appear as Julia for the only to be clasped in those of her

very lips, and trembling with passion-"basely and cruelly false! Hubert Davenport is not the soulless wretch you would have me believe him to be. I about the stage after all, when once a easily won-his pleasure and his pas- woman walks its boards a queen, that time? And my father to think so ill of is irresistibly fascinating, and Adelaide me! A compliment, truly! and one never felt it to be more entrancingly so which Rosalia Snowden, I do assure than the night the curtain went up on you, will never forget !"

And before the wrathful old man could reply, she was gone.

as fast as her feet could carry her, lock- looked the very embodiment of youth, ed the door, and sat down by the open | grace and beauty. window to think and to cry to her heart's

content. "If something would only happen!" she thought, looking out drearily into the falling night, her eyes very large and wistful, and dark as the dusky shadows slowly creeping over the window-sill-" if something would only happen, and give wing to all that within me that longs to fly, then I might forget this blessed summer. Oh, to be up and doing-to crowd and struggle with the busy world, and feel that one is living! I want to live, not simply exist.

When one is weary of the world, then such a life as this may seem pleasant and peaceful, but I want to try the now sitting in one of the proscenium

other first." The stars came out one by one. The if his very soul was in their gaze. moon rose clear and full over the mountains, and went sailing along through

ing the perfect beauty of the tranquil was Julia.

are you staring the moon out of countenance-looking for the man in it, eh? The katydids and fireflies went out to take a walk. And I followed their example, my bonny Rosabel,' sang Harry Snowden, Rosalia's young harumscarum cousin. "And now-

'Open your mouth and shut your eyes, And I'll give you something to make you wise,' And, suiting the action to the word rather more literally than he supposed Harry tossed a letter up to her, and went serenely on his way, quite unconscious that he had brought to Rosalia the "something that should happen," and with anger, and pain, and bitter humiliation, aroused the slumbering genius just ready to spring into life, and but waiting the quickening touch of wounded pride and slighted love to be its own glorious self. make existence one long, long dream of

The letter was from Hubert Davenport-merely a few hurriedly-written lines of farewell, telling her that business of great importance necessitated his mmediate return home, and vaguely hinted that perhaps next summer he might visit Oakland again.

"Father was right," she said, as it speaking to some one beside her. 'Hubert Davenport was but playing with me, and I to believe him so good. and true, and noble! But all is not lost. Life is still before me, thank heaven, and this night-this very night -I'll fix my fate for weal or woe, and bid them all-father, mother, friends and home-good-by!"

Rosalia was as good as her word, and with hands that trembled, but did not falter in their desperate purpose, she placed a few keepsakes and other trifles in a small travelling-bag, took from the bureau her slender hoard of money, put from the house.

When she reached the gate, she stopped in the shadow of the maples, and ooked back at the dear old home she was leaving-it might be forever.

A great rustling among the gooseberry bushes announced the approach of some one. Rosalia stood perfectly still and listened. But it was only old Rover, who had, uninvited, come to look after his young mistress, and ask, in his dumb way, permission to accompany her wheresoever she might be going.

"Yes, come along, Rove," she whispered, patting his silky head. "I'm going away. This will be our last walk going away. This will be our last walk together for a long, long time; and, as I out, reproachfully. "Were you always know you will keep the secret, I don't mind telling you my plans. It's not far to Baltimore, is it, Rove, old fellow? I am going there—going to see my old school friend, Kate Ruthvine, who is living in that pleasant city. The evening express leaves Oakland at ten o'clock. We have plenty of time. It's but a little distance if we go the short way through the lane, and we are not afraid, ily.

Rove seemed to know what it all meant, and wagged his tail approvingly; but Rove was quite a simple dog, though he looked so large and knowing, and could not understand the nature of the many dangers which were sure to beset the pathway of the young and beautiful girl the moment the safe shelter of her home was left behind.

many difficulties to overcome, and many temptations to resist; but she had entered upon her career.

* * * * * * Adelaide Stewart, the handsomest woman, and the best actress the stage had boasted for many a year, sat alone in her sumptuous dressing-room, dream-

Robes of the costliest silk and velvet, rare old laces, jewels, and flowers in about the apartment, and amid all the It is needless to dwell upon the scene luxury and splendor sat Adelaide, her which ensued. It is enough to say that | beautiful face wearing a strangely sad manding his daughter to see Hubert many triumphs, who had won and re-

why she cared for him so much-knew A weary sigh escaped her lips, and the direction of Deacon Snowden's. why the ice-like chill crept round her tears that had lain heavy at her heart heart, and the blood seemed freezing in all day slowly filled her eyes, and lay her veins. Never see Hubert Daven- like drops of dew on her long, dark

"Oh, it's all such a wearisome, wearistronger than the old, and angry re- some life!" she thought; "a task that the words that fell from his stern lips. happy life were once more mine! I "Do you not know, simpleton though | wonder if they have forgotten me?

first time that night, and her eyes "It is false !" she cried, white to the must be bright and her nerves of the

> There is a singular bewitchment the first act of the "Hunchback."

Her whole heart was in her work, and when she came down the stage. Rosalia ran up stairs to her little room | with Helen, in the garden scene, she

A wild storm of applause greeted her entrance. Adelaide glanced calmly over the sea of heads before her, and smiled triumphantly.

But why did the smile leave her lips so suddenly, and what was the meaning of the death-like pallor that so quickly

overspread her features? For a moment she seemed hardly conscious of where she was, and it was all she could do to so far master her ex-

treme agitation as to go on with her For eight long years she had not seen Hubert Davenport, but she saw him

boxes, with his eyes fixed upon her as When Adelaide came to the speech ending with "Helen, I am constancy!" She lowered her eyes, unable to withthe cloudless evening sky like a great she lifted her eyes full to the face of for a moment, and—was lost. the man who had won the first and "Is it yes or no, Rosalia?" Rosalia leaned from the window and only love of her heart, and then, sum-

half forgot her troubles in contemplat- moning all her strong self-control, she

She could go on now fearlessly, and "Hallo!" cried a cheery voice be- neither heed nor care for one present. neath the window. "I say, Rosa, why Lightning leaped from her impassioned eves, her bosom heaved with stormy emotion, and her terrible "Leave not the task to me!" brought Hubert to his feet, fairly electrified by the tremendous force with which she uttered the proud command.

"She is magnificent!" he muttered under his breath; "and there is som thing about her that reminds me some one I have met before. It's voice not easily forgotten, once having heard; and her eyes-they are literally windows of the soul, but I can't tel why it is their glorious glances so mov

The curtain went down amid a tumultuous outburst of applause, and she who had enchanted all hearts, and whom not a few envied, vanished like a star that had reached its setting.

She had won another triumph, brilliant as the most ambitious could wish but she was heard to say by those who waited to get a glimpse of her at the stage-door, as she passed to her carriage:

"Drive fast, David; I am tired—so Night after night Adelaide charmed and delighted her thousands of eager worshipers, and night after night

He loved her-there was no denying that: but could he marry an actress No; yet he might make her acquaintance, and be measurably happy in the knowledge that she cared for him. But Hubert's love, as he very soon discovered, was not of a kind to be so easily satisfied. It got the better of his prudence, as love usually does, and finally pride went down before it like

chaff before the wind. Adelaide had not refused him her on her hat and shawl, and stole silently friendship—an honor very few could Wedns'Dys, boast of ; but she was ice itself so far as (till May 26) love was concerned, and took no notice of his tender overtures whatever. Her studied indifference nettled him not a little, and one evening he rather abruptly brought matters to a crisis, by remarking, with an earnestness that left Thursdays,

"I love you, Adelaide—better than all the world, I love you! Leave the stage, be my own dear wife, and the one aim and desire of my life shall be to make you happy."
Adelaide smiled coldly.

"You forget yourself, I think, Mr. Davenport. The story is not new, and, therefore, a little tiresome, But I've no wish to hurt your feelings, or laugh at your school-boy fancies."

so-so heartless and so bitter?" "No. There was one summer of my life, as sweet as a bird's song in springtime, and my heart was as warm and believing then as it is now cold and dis-

"Oh, Adelaide! and you to have loved in vain?" he replied, with a look of incredulous wonder. "Ican'tbelieve it possible! "Aye, in vain," she answered, stead-

"His name—am I asking too much You do not tremble—your eyes are calm and clear; your heart beats slow and evenly. You do not love him now, and I-Oh, say that I may dare to hope, "His name?" she returned quickly.

and looked him squarely in the face. "His name was Hubert Davenport, and mine, then-Rosalia Snowden. Great was her surprise, and it must be confessed, secret joy, to see the glad way he caught her hand in his, and Rosalia had many things yet to learn, pressed it passionately to his lips.

"Ah, yes, little Rosa, I know you now! You were standing just so the last time I saw you in the lane, only you were a child then, and I - Did you really love me so much, my darling?" "You know that I did! But that time is past, and you are less than "Less than nothing! but you do love

me still. You have had your revenge, and you ought to be satisfied with that. Shall I go or stay, Rosalia?" "Go, and forever." "You shall be obeyed; but your heart is mine-mine alone-and for the rest I care not.

And before she could utter a word of remonstrance he was gone. A lady, in a handsome travelling dress and wearing a thick brown veil, stepped from the train at Oakland, one evening fused so many hearts, and whose genius being recognized by any one, slowly in June, and, without speaking to or

A scent of lilacs in the air, a gentle murmuring of the wind through the maple leaves, a dewy, hushful calm everywhere, and pale, soft moonlight falling peacefully over all.

A gray-haired woman sat in the low, old doorway, with her head bowed fully on the ground.

" Mother . Aye, that were a cry to arouse one like a trumpet-blast!

"Rosalia, my child-come home at "Mother-dear, dear mother!" And Rosa was in her mother's arms, and sobbing as if her heart would break. "Let us pray," said an old man, who had approached them unobserved—"let

us pray, for the dead is live again, the lost lamb found." "You have forgiven me, father? Oh, I know you have, for there are tears in your eyes and no anger in your voice!"

" Forgive you? Yes dear child But it's an aching heart we have carried in our bosom ever since the sad day you left us," replied the trembling old father, as he kissed her tenderly on lips

"Sad indeed," whispered Rosa, giving kiss for kiss : " but I'm rich and famous now. I've tried the other life, am tired of it, and have come home to

rest and be a child again," was her sweet, low answer. And a very child was Rosa through all that gladsome summer. The weeks and months went by in blissful content. and were it not for just one little, regretful memory she would have been

Alone in the lane, one autumn day, with only the birds for company, Rosalia so far forgot herself as to wonder if Hubert, whom she had sent from her with such lofty scorn, still cherished a thought of her.

"Ah me!" sighed she. "I've got my fill of the world's praises, and pleasures, and follies. I know the value of its friendships, its adulations and its vanities. Men are but shallow flatterers-women but silly butterflies. I did not find one true, faithful heart among

"You are wrong, Rosa; you did find one true heart, and again it is laid at your feet. Will you accept of it-now my dearest?" said a well-remember ed voice, at her side. "Sir," she said, with much dignity,

"allow me to-." "Listen, Rosalia! We are not children. You love me-have always loved me-and so I ask you again to be my wife."

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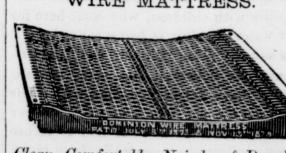
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Chatham, N. B.

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