THE CHIMES OF ST. MARY'S.

[Concluded.] Russell spent a curious week. He did not care the snap of his thumb for any of his relations; he had not any very near of blood, yet he called upon them all. Some of them moved in fashionable circles, and swould have liked nothing better than to have lionized him. He submitted to dinner parties and luncheons, things that he abhorred; was even inveigled into two full-dress receptions.

He hunted up one set of relations, who were poor and lived on a flat. There were three or four growing girls in the family. He took them all to the theatre one night, and to the opera another, and gave them a handsome Christmas present all around. He felt intensely amused at himself. He knew that he was emulating Martin Fairburn of whom he had always made fun. "At any rate, it is better than being a bear, and I have been nothing better for three years!' he said to himself. The family who lived upon the flat felt as if they had struck a bonanzy. The growing girls talked about him all the time when they were awake, and dreamed about what magnificent things he would do next, when they were asleep.

He said to himself more than fifty times a day, "I have had just one idea for three years. What a fool I have been!' yet the one idea remained. He was determined to take part in things to become one with the busy world. To step squarely out of the past into the present. Yet despite his determination he kept] remembering the incredulous smile with which Imogene had bidden him good-bye. He also kept remembering how she had looked a thousand times at Nice. There are some things a man cannot get rid of in

At length, one evening, when he was to drive you back.' in a crowded drawing-room, and one of the crowd, as he assured himself, he Imogene had commenced that process somewhat grave now. of handing over to Mrs. Adrian. At the time that he begun to speculate, he was promenading with a leading more intentiy he seemed to listen. There is no flattery so subtle or so powerful as that of rapt attention. The

thought, angrily.

man was at the depot to meet him with crimson again, her lips curled haughtily; a cutter, saying, the master had directed | she did not deny it. him to bring him to West Point, where the officers and cadets were having a ball. Russell preferred going alone, so he started. He was very much confused on the way, got off the right o'clock when he reached his destination. As he entered, shading his eyes whom he distinctly saw was Imogene, bered Fairburn's description of her as "a shaft of light;" she was in full evening costume. Mrs. Adrian was also waltzing; she wore a cream-white satin, and looked spiritual. After standing awhile, he discovered Mrs. Fairburn at a distance, a delighted spectator. He had been present fully fifteen minutes before he saw Fairbarn, who was standing not three feet from him, silent and sad. He took no part in the gay scene; like himself, he had become a mere looker-on. Russell stepped up and placed his hand on his shoulder. He started violently.

"I declare I'm ashamed of myself I believe I'm growing nervous," said, apologetically; then added, "But how late you are-I have been looking for you for more than an hour." Russell did not explain that he had

lost his way, but instead, asked, "Why are you not dancing?"

Martin shrugged his shoulders. " I am getting too old, that's the plain fact !"

"I am a year older than you, yet I intend to dance," said Russell, gravely.

"Do, old boy! Go right in!" Russell laughed. "Time enough," he said. Just then the widow and an officer glided by.

"Martin, I wonder what Mrs. Adrian will do wher she is an old

lady ?" he said. "That's easily surmised. She will

sit luxuriantly in a cushioned chair and command her willing subjects," was the ready reply. Then he relapsed into travelers. Russell was entirely comthe gloomy silence which his friend had disturbed. Russell seemed determined not to leave him to himself, which was length she said :evidently what he desired.

"Martin, don't get into the habit of staying on the outside of life-it is the worst thing a man can do !"

"What do you know about it?" demanded the other, sharply, then added more mildly, as if ashamed of his ill humor, "You've been in the midst of gaiety for years.

This time Russell shrugged his shoul-

"For the last three years I have stood on the edge of the circle, a lookeron, just as you do this minute. I'm and cared considerably.' Three years done with it. See, I'm going to dance ago I was not your g and I cared con-

with Miss Adrian this minute." was talking with her in very evident | into the past as you do.' acmiration. Enssell went directly t | She turned a trifle pale. He saw it |

her side. In the week he had been away he had got his self-poise past any power of hers to undo. Perhaps the a oman recognized the tact. Fairburn pass. fancied he saw her change color. The next moment they passed him dancing. They waltzed about five minutes, then Russell led her to a seat. He felt thrilled to his finger tips, but was quite composed. Someone almost instantly claimed her hand, and he went back to Fairburn. He found him absorbed and silent. Presently he turned to him as if con inuing the conversation they had been engaged in before the dance.

"And, Russell, what will Miss Adrian do when she is an old lady ?" Russel smiled.

"Like her sister-in-law, she, too, will sit in a coshioned chair, only she will take her grand-children on her knee and fondle them." "You mean that she will be some

m m's wife ?" said Fairburn. "I wonder whose!" His tone was

Russel' watched him much as a physician who is familiar with some dreaded disease watches the symptoms.

promenade for another hour, then again Russell sought her. "Mrs. Adrian said you never looked bored. I think you look so to-night,

he said, coolly. "I feel as if I thad been dancing a week," was her reply.

"Do you want to return to the crags?" "Mrs. Adrian would not leave for the world. See how she is enjoying herself," glancing with a slightly contemptuous look to where her sister-inlaw was receiving the homage of two or

"I am not aware that I said anything a day. There are some things that about Mrs. Adrian leaving. I came

He was growing very bold. Imogene had been able to smile at him in amusebegan oddly to speculate as to when ment before he went away; she looked "I will speak to Mrs Fairburn," she

She manifestly wanted some excuse belle. The belle was doing the talking to remain. He coolly led her to the for at best Russell was a silent man. dressing-room door, saying he would The more intently he thought, the attend to that. Martin looked surprised when he told him they were

A few minutes more and they were young lady mentally added another to out under the stars, with nothing to her long list of conquests, experiencing | break the silence of the still white a mild form of the same pride that the world but their own voices and the Indians used to have in their number | tinkle of the bells on their horses. At of scalps. At length some one came to first Russell drove rapidly and conficlaim her for a dance, and Russell, dently. He was not at all sure that he thus released, retired to a quiet corner | could follow the most direct route back to continue his speculation undisturbed. | to the "Crags," but he knew he would 'I am always thinking of her, if not strike it sooner or later, besides he in one way then in another,' he trusted considerably to the horses. They passed the first few miles in easy There was a fascination in this new conversation, talking mainly of what speculation. It followed him all night concerned neither of them. He had in his dreams. Once he imagined that come to Cloister with the fixed purpose he was standing with her under the of asking her at what time she had stars, and, in a sort of fury, demanded | begun that! handing-over process. He of her when she commenced, and in had not in the least lost his courage, answer she looked at him with the fine | neither was he mentally couching the scorn she had at Nice that pight three | question in the best form of words. years ago, and said as she said then, When he put it, he meant to put it "Diamonds are rare, crystals are cheap | bluntly. For three years he had hungered to be with her, to gaze into her The speculation and the dream to- face. Now for a little he determined to gether resulted in a fixed purpose. The give himself up to the charm of her next day being the last of the year, he presence. But at length, suddenly, packed his satchel and took the after. without prelude, and looking full at her noon train for Cloister. He arrived in in the starlight, he asked the question. the early twilight. Fairburn's coach- She turned crimson, then pale, then

"Since you ask, I will tell you. I

began three years ago." "You mean that I was the first?" leaving his satchel with the man, and, His voice was perfectly quiet; her's getting explicit directions as to the road. had been excited, now it took his tone.

"You are mistaken! I never handed you over. You went of your own will. track several times, so that it was nine I was quite young, quite unsophisticated. I cared considerably. I supposed you were a sample and grew cynical. Since from the glare of light, the first person | then I have wasted my time in what I have absurdly called testing. It has bewaltzing with an officer. He rement come a great bore, and I am going to cry quits. When we leave here I am going to bid my charming sister-in-law

Her voice was entirely heartless, so was her manner. They had come to a place where the road was forked Russell looked bewildered. The horses seemed at fault. He made no percep'ible hesitation, but turned to the right A Full Assortment of general principles. Imogene did

"Mrs. Adrian will miss you. She is very lovely. It is difficult to tell which she looks the more spiritual in,

cream satin or crape." She looked at him quickly. It was impossible to tell what he meant, or whether he meant anything. After that there was not a word spoken for several miles. Everything was covered with snow, there seemed to be no land-marks. Russell felt disturbed. Miss Adria: also began to suspect that

something was wrong. 'Why we drove over there in less than an hour. We have been travelling at equal speed and have been on the road an nour and a quarter!' She was looking at her watch. Rus-

sell deliberately turned the horses and 'I reckon I made a mistake at the

fork,' he said, quite calmly. They made the return miles without a word being exchanged. Then they took the other road. Several roads crossed it. They tried three or four to no purpose. They met no one to inquire of. They seemed to be the only posed; Miss Adrian was nervous. She looked at her watch frequently, at

'It is almost twelve o'clock; we left before ten.

He had again turned his horses. 'Are you perfectly warm?' he asked. S'e did not appear to hear him. "We are certainly lost!' she exclaimed in a sort of panic.

'How absund!' he said. The horses were going along briskly, as if they had struck the right trail Again there was silence. This time

Russell broke it. 'Three years ago, you were young siderably. Perhaps that is why I am The officer had given her a seat, and not able to put it coolly and effectively At the Medical Hall

distinctly in the star-light. Just then the sound of bells leapt and rung down through the mountain

Hark! Listen! Those are the chimes of St. Mary's!' she cried in delight. 'Yes, we are on the right road at last, and not far from home,' he said, and reined in the horses.

'Why do you not go on?' she asked, her voice all in a tremble He was looking at his watch. 'It is after twelve o'clock; I am wait-

ing for you to wish me a Happy New Year,' he said. Three more years have elapsed. The

widow still alternates between cream satin and crape and is as appealing and charming as ever. Fairburn still remains at the 'Crags'

with his mother; he has recovered tone, devotes himself to the boys and is quite happy. Russell has bought the adjoining place. A chabby little fellow call him papa, and makes a dim future possible when Imogene may sit in a cushioned chair and fondle her grandchildren, The three or four growing girls who live on a flat, spend a part of every summer with them, and Imogene continued to dance and there is a prospect that sooner or later Fairburn will take the eldest to live at the "Crags."

When asked, as he frequently is, how he came to settle down among the Highlands, Russell always replies with a merry twinkle in his eyes, "Because my wife is so devoted to the Chimes of St. Mary's."

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