

RETROSPECT.

BY VANDYKE BROWN.

Sit down here beside me, my sweet Genevieve; Hold my hands in your own, as you held them of old.

THE STORY OF AN ORPHAN GIRL.

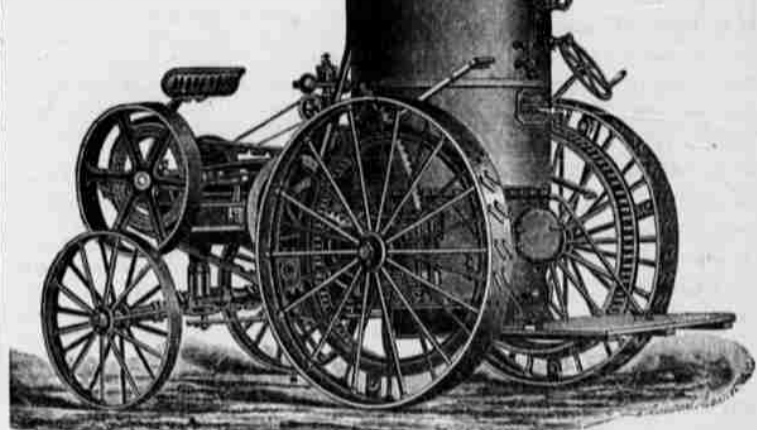
Mattie's story was simple enough. The orphan girl of a former servant in a wealthy family, Mattie had shared the lessons and the play of the younger daughter of the house, until a time came when it was convenient to turn the humble companion adrift to work for herself.

husband and the farmer, along the breezy uplands, and then Adam sent her back, and hastened his own steps in the direction of the little station at the foot of the downs. When she came again, he said, laughing, it would be from B— station, and that he would drive in a fly through the Stonedene gate along the track, the only approach to a carriage road leading to the farm.

"That has happened," he said, "which if it had not befallen me, myself, and become a part of my own experience, I should find it difficult to find it possible. A strange thing has happened—here the old smile he remembered so well broke the light over his face—"and yet a thing not more strange, as the world goes, than that you—I say nothing of Mattie—but that you should have trusted me throughout. I detected no distrust in your voice, no doubt in your eyes—not even when they first met mine just now.

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