## Current Literature.

THE PARTING HOUR

There's something in the "parting hour," Will still the warmest heart-Yet kindred, comrades, lovers, friends, Are fated all to part. But this I've seen-and many a pang Has pressed it on my mind, The one who goes is happier, Than those who stay behind.

No matter what the matter by-Adventuerous, dangerous, far To the wild depths of frontier, To solitude or war. Still something cheers the heart that dares In all of human kind ; And they that go are happier Than those who stay behind.

The bride goes to the bridegroom's home With doubting and with feare ; But does not Hope her rainbow spread Across her cloudy tears? Alas! the mother who remains, What comfort can she find But this-the gone is happier Than the one she leaves behind.

Have you a trusty comrade dear-An old and valued friend? Be sure your term of sweet concourse At length will have an end. And when you part-as part you wil!-Oh, take it not unkind, If he who goes is happier Than he who stays behind.

God wills it so, and so it is ! The pilgrim on the way, Though weak and worn more cheerful are, Than all the rest who stay. And when, at last, poor man, subdued, Lies down to death resigned, May be not still be happier far Than those he leaves behind.

### Her Discretion.

At last, after an enormous expenditure weeks of weary research amongst all more interesting than food for cattle.

the known and unknown haunts of old They were none of them scientific, and oak and Chippendale, china, glass and bric-a-brac generally, Mr. Collington's as "Collington's Fattening Food" held was even more blithesomely preparing for his return. At least so she resolved, he should have a home furnished in a the recption of his bride.

His bride, like his furniture and decowell educated as she had occasion to her of being the mother of the Collingtons to come.

Her husband, rightly enough, esteemmade the discovery that she esteemed poured into them to nectar. him highly enough to come to him for better or worse. Hitherto his best affections had been given to the antique; to be, was very reticent of giving her type. Plate-glass brightly reflected Mrs. now a youthful maiden held his whole opinion; the fact being that she was Collington's sunshades and garden hats, hand. Of yore, when the former Mrs. | of her husband's wide and deep know- | stand, and a red Bohemian glass bowl, | ledge of all branches of art. So she would | that had" Brummagen" visibly stamped Collington, the wife of his youth, had stand dumb before a bronze or statue or on it to the educated eye, replaced the had with difficulty refrained from the utterance of a snarling caution to her not to shake these treasures into bits well for her to say. with her heavy tread. Now he pictured with pleasure the delicate hands of his young wife wandering at their own and hugged the secrect of the beautiful doubtless relegated them. But, in the crystal and porcelain that seemed than ever to his heart, till the moment transformation or deformation of the people from the standpoint of right. So far as specially made to be handled by them.

The new Mrs. Collington was a highlybred girl, the daughter of a gentleman of her opinion, but an extract from a and greeted him with such affectionate who was entitled to the prefix of letter she wrote to her mother during effusion that he almost forgot the furni-"Honorable" to his name. Her uncleher father's only brother-was a viscount, with vast estates. But her father was poorer than her uncle's chief cook, should be very happy if he didn't always cloud could ever come between them, and the little money he had he spent on look as if he expected me to say some and how lovely she would look amidst the being he loved best in the worldhimself, namely-leaving his wife and children to struggle on as best they bish to pretty new things! But that's and ormola abominations which were could on the crumbs that fell from his from habit. I believe, for he has shown now giving him blows in the eyes at rich brother's table.

Many outsiders took it for granted they were quartered in a smally house in allowed to furnish the house as I the midst of wildly lovely and luxuriant please. gardens, not a hundred yards from the enterance gates of one of Lord Holdare's the expression of delighted surprise trouble she had obviously taken. oldest and grandest family mansions, which would flit over her face when he But Lord Holdare knew better than any one else that while the Hon. James knew that any one else would maintain his the task of furnishing by studying suits wife and daughters, he would make no in gold and gorgeousness in the shop effort to do so himself. Accordingly he kept a tight hand upon the crumbs, and eve of their departure from Paris for dealt them out sparingly.

sun picking peas and strawberries to send to market, and now and again sitting down to dinner at her uncle's at once to Petersburg, but he shrank table with dukes and duchesses, and the from the thought of the nasty long crest of her race on gold plate around her in every direction.

It has been said that she was quite as well educated as she had occasion to be. She had never been concious of any deficiency either while picking peas or dining with duchesses. She could talk very well about flowers, and horses and her. dogs. She was unsurpassed in her district at lawn tennis. She knew that china and silver that had been in a noble family for many generations was very valuable-"On account of the noble family," she spuposed. Beyond these things she knew little, but she always looked beautiful and aristocratic, talked well, and was expected by her noble relatives to make a great match.

If the Holdares had been unblessed with four daugherts of their own, they would have given their niece the chance and quiet; just what I think you'll like of a season or two in town. As it was, when they should be fairly settled. Lord and Lady Holdare determined "to give James's girl a chance.'

But in the meantime, James's girl grew tired of picking the flowers and fruit about it, "yes, yes. If it's not to your and vegetables which her father cultivation taste"—he chuckled at the exquisite ed for sale. So chancing to meet Mr. Collington, who was out for his Autnmn holiday, and finding from the friend at whose house she met him that he was rich and admired her, she brought her life of alternate bitterness and brilliancy to a termination by agreeing to marry

Mr. Collington was a genleman, and the Fellowes family felt themselves bound to be perfectly satisfied with the match that would release their oldest daughter from the bondage of the mixture of proud position and penury in which she had stiffingly existed hitherto. At the same time, though he, his family and manners were unexceptionable, the Honorable James felt that they would have liked it if his money tiful wife, reestablished in his beautiful

of time, trouble, taste and money, after had been made by means of something comfortable house on Haverstock Hill no charm for him. However, the man was completely furnished and ready for who made it being worth his weight in and wealth. It almost seemed to her gold, they swallowed the fattening food and give them their daughter.

He had said nothing to her previous rations, had been chosen on the purest to their marriage relative to the artistic principles of taste. She was young; she decorations and furniture of his house. she was innocent; she was quite as Sordid as her home surroundings were, muddled, shabby and ugly as was the appearance of all the rooms, they apbe. She was discretion itself as regarded pealed to his delicacy not to enlarge on her manner of deporting herself in the the widely different ones which were rubbed his eyes, and looked again. The flimsily fast society in which she moved. awaiting her in her married home. He She was beautiful; and indeed, briefly, he had that reliance on his own taste that she was quite which only a well-cultured taste can all within them was as altered as themfelt sure she would appreciate it all, for blue and gold, and in their horrible undeserving of the bonor in store for give. And his wife, with her refined beauty and the tradition of her race about her, would, he knew, regard Gibbon's rich carving with reverence, and find, as he did, that old Venetian ed himself the more highly since he had wineglass turned the wines that were he had secured Milan; the old mirrors,

Mr. Collington discovered that his wife, place to pale modern oak, conventional light-hearted and happy as she appeared "hall furniture" of the most ordinary heart in the hollow of her pretty little oppressed into silence by the discovery as these articles hung on the umbrella approached his cabinets full of fragile picture, leading him to suppose that she bronze saver in high relief as a re-Venetian glass and priceless Sovres, he was wrapt in an ecstasy of admiration ceptacle

too deep for words," he told himself, from the spare rooms to which she had should arrive when he should display it before her delighted eyes.

Yes, undoubtedly she was very reticent the honeymoon will show that there ture. What a happy fellow he felt him-

was method in her reticence: nice as we thought he would be, and I ded forward to welcome him. thing definite about things we're looking the old furniture, when he had restored at, and I have nothing definite to say, it to its proper place, and had done He hasen't much taste, prefers old rub- away with every vestige of the ebonized me a likeliness of his first wife, and she every turn! was a very dowdyish-looking person, just the kind of a person who would that these crumbs must fall very natur- prefer a hard-back oak settle to a comally and continually in the direction of fortable padded chair. But Mr. Colling- taxed his truthfulness and tact severely. the Hon. James Fellowe's family, for ton is very liberal, and I know I shall be

> introduced her to the artistically somber for her, she was educating herself for windows of Paris.

Unfortunately it fell out that, on the ealt them out sparingly.

Thus it had been that the present Mrs. ton from his London manager, entreat-Thus it had been that the present Mrs. Collington's had been a life of sharp and humiliating contrasts. Ragged carpots and rough fare at home, and every luxury to which her birth entitled her when at the contract for supplying to which her birth entitled her when at the contract for supplying to find the contract for supplying for the contract for supplying to find the contract for supplying to find the contract for supplying for find the contract for supplying for th

her uncle's; accustomed to spend many their fattening food to the horses of the a fair June morning out in the burning imperial army. It was a golden opportunity that even the rich Mr. Collington could not venture to throw away.

He made up his mind promptly to go journey for his young wife. It was impossible to take her with him. It was equally impossible to leave her in Paris. He had but one alternative. She must go home alone, and he must resign himself to missing the sight of her pretty pleasure and refined delight at sight of the harmonious combinations of antique form and color which he had formed for

He took a tender leave of her, feeling no qualms on her account, for he had full reliance on her probity and discretion of the mature maid he had engaged for any price." to attend upon her. At parting he said quite cheerfully:

"I should like to have been with you to show you the old shop on your first introduction to it, but I've no doubt yon'll find every thing tolerably comfortable. Nothing magnificent, you know-no crimson velvet and ormolu, and acres of gilt frame and extensive lakes of looking-glass, but comfortable

She smiled an amiable assent.

"Yes, yes," he went on, highly delightwith his own little joke of underrating his artistic furniture and misleading her humor of this idea—"get rid of what you don't like and supply the vacuum."

"How very good you are!" she said, smiling sweetly but unemotionally; and then they said, and he thought, no mere of the matter.

Six weeks had passed. Mr. Collington's negotiations with the Russian Gevernment, after detaining him much longer than he liked, and involving him in vast expense, and ended in nothing more remonstative than a compliment from the government agent on the quantity of the food.

He bore the dissapointment manfully and even cheerfully, and turned joyful eyes into that almost immediate future which should see him united to his beau-

While he was thus blithesomely steaming towards her, Mrs. Collington manner befitting his worthy merits that Providence must have informed the Russian Government Mr. Collington's house needed reorganizing, and ize it, could do it better in his absence. that she, the proper person to reorgan-

There was still a great deal of daylight in the sky when he drew up at the high, massive iron gates which gave admission into the grounds. He stared, somber iron gates were picked out in

The first glimpse into the hall made him distrust his identity or sanity. The grand old carved chairs and buffets. the shields and goblet, in search of which with their roughly-wrought, richly-lined Before their honeymoon was over, glass frames, had one and all given

> home. "She was young and very fair," rooms he had "treated" as an artist does his picture.

Presently she came in from her drive. self, to be sure! His young wife spar "Mr. Collington is quite as kind and kled into brighter beauty as she boun-

After a minute or two, which she pent in rapturously recording what she had been doing in his absence, she

"Are you not glad to see all these lovely things in the place of the dingy old rubbish I found when I came here?,' she Poor, unconscious Mr. Collington! At asked, with a pretty air of deprecation

"They are very rare and beautiful," he replied, hesitatingly. "We must splender of the home he had prepared gradually reintroduce them into their proper places in these rooms, and the beautiful interiors will grow into fresh beauty under your grateful hands and artistic supervision.

"What do you mean?" she asked. throwing eyes of beaming astoishment full upon his fastfalling visage.

slowly but surely into his mind. He crushed it for a moment.

In that moment she came to the conclusion that mistakes had beeu made on both sides. He had, evidently, misguidedly supposed that she would be conten-

ted with the furniture that had been good enough for his first wife, while she had labored under the erroneous idea that so fatuous an old fogy would feel obliged to her for renovating and redecorating the dominion over which he had requested her to reign.

"Your rooms full of rubbish are beyound your recall, Mr. Collington. 1 advertised a household of old fashioned furniture for sale, and delears came in from every direction. They gave me next to nothing for it, naturally, but I was glad to let it go, I don't know where,

"Gone—irrevocably gone!"
"Yes," she said, rather haughtly feel

ing that her efforts were not meeting with half the recognition they desered "And with them my ambition of being

noted for the finest collection of antique, artistic furniture in the north of London! he muttered, making a mighty effort to bear the blow with fortitude. But Mrs. Collington failed to perceive

the effort, and resented the want of appreciation which marked his manner of receiving the tidings of the changes she had so successfully carried out during his absence. Consequently, she retired to her own room in a dudgeon, and made a point of not speaking to her husband when social exigencies rendered it imperative that she should emerge from it.

Her relations say that the impending legal separation between them is entirely due to fattening food-that loathome source of his wealth, which had obliged him to leave his wife so soon after the

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