THE REV. MILES LATIMER

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The Rev. Miles Latimer by Linda Gardiner

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LINDA GARDINER

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MILES LATIMER

BY

LINDA GARDINER

Though Death with Life, though Wrong with Right, Are bound within the scheme of things, Yet can our souls on soaring wings Gain to a loftier, purer height.

That Right is that which must prevail If not here there, if not now then, Is the one Truth which shall not fail For all the doubts and fears of men.

LEWIS MORRIS.

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CHAPTER I.

MISS GAYTHORNE.

When none admire, 'tis useless to excel; Where none are beaux, 'tis vain to be a belle.

THE room was pleasant, comfortable, and old-fashioned. It had a low ceiling, a Brussels carpet, a correct set of drawing-room furniture encased in chintz, and a few supplementary tables and chairs of more modern make, and a piano. The fireplace was filled with plants, and there were some

books and a jar of flowers on the round centre table.

Mrs. Halliday sat knitting in her armchair by the big bow-window; and further in the recess stood a girl of two or three and twenty, gazing out upon the formal sandy-looking lawn and the geranium beds, the belt of firs, and the glimpse beyond of red-tiled cottages and a line of green water. She was a girl who had narrowly missed being handsome, and who could be fascinating when she pleased, for her dark, straight eyebrows almost met over large, clear grey eyes, the mouth was wonderfully mobile, and the brightness of her smile more than atoned for the slight habitual droop of the corners of her lips and the want of softness about the firm chin.

She was not looking fascinating at present; frowning brows and an expression of boredom evidenced that she was dissatisfied with the prospect.

"I am afraid, aunt, that Gatby is rather slow," she said.

"I expected you would find it so after all your dissipations," said the elder lady, calmly. "You will get used to it in time, my dear."

"Oh, I hope not," responded the girl, devoutly. "I beg your pardon, aunt, but I cannot imagine how you endure it."

"It is very pretty and quiet."

"I know it is delightfully pretty, the sort of place to make a picture of, but not to live in. And it's quiet enough, cers tainly."