

**BETTY: A LAST
CENTURY
LOVE STORY**

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Betty: A Last Century Love Story by Anna Vernon Dorsey

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ANNA VERNON DORSEY

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BETTY.

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A LAST CENTURY LOVE STORY

BY

ANNA VERNON DORSEY

Kiltse...

"They loved their lives through and then went—whither?
And were one to the end."

Steuern's "Forsaken Garden."

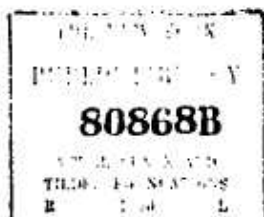
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TROW'S
PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING COMPANY,
NEW YORK.

To

AMÉLIE RIVES

WITH MUCH LOVE,—THIS MEMORY OF A PAST WHICH
BELONGS TO US BOTH AND WHICH
WILL NEVER DIE

March, 1890

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BETTY.

PRELUDE.

THAT portion of the State of Maryland embraced in the peninsula which separates the waters of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, and which is known as the Eastern Shore, has shared the usual fate of slaveholding communities since the emancipation.

Many parts of the low, flat country lie untilled in the present labor difficulties for lack of farm hands, the negroes, as in many parts of the South, having flocked to the neighboring cities. Numbers of the proprie-

tors, the old families, have left their impoverished plantations to be cultivated on shares by tenants of the overseer or poorer white class.

Stately homesteads, dating from colonial times, are found here and there, deserted and dismantled, sad reminders of days of past prosperity, when these isolated and now obscure counties were noted for an elegant and hospitable society.

In Queen Anne County, at the mouth of the Chester River, stands an old, square brick house, high above the shelving shore, down to which slopes what was once a terraced garden. From here, looking westward, past two capes of meadow-land, jutting on either side where the salt tide curls over the placid shallows, the water stretches out and meets the blank horizon, relieved



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