

FANNY PERCY'S KNIGHT-ERRANT

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Fanny Percy's Knight-Errant by Mary Graham

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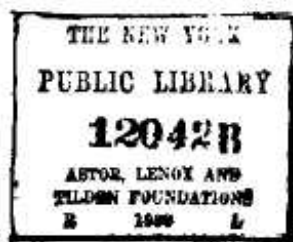
MARY GRAHAM

**FANNY PERCY'S
KNIGHT-ERRANT**



"I HAVE JUST ESCAPED." Page 97.

FANNY PERCY.



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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
Last Days at Home,	5
CHAPTER II.	
New Scenes,	21
CHAPTER III.	
Fanny finds True Joy,	39
CHAPTER IV.	
First Efforts in the Cause,	52
CHAPTER V.	
John is Enlisted,	71
CHAPTER VI.	
First Battle,	91

WQR 19 FEB 36

CHAPTER VII.		PAGE
Sad yet Hopeful Days,		109
CHAPTER VIII.		
What should not have Happened,		129
CHAPTER IX.		
Nettie,		152
CHAPTER X.		
"Only One Glass,"		167
CHAPTER XI.		
A Great Change,		178
CHAPTER XII.		
Brother and Sister,		197
CHAPTER XIII.		
A Bitter Lesson,		217
CHAPTER XIV.		
Life Work,		255

FANNY PERCY'S KNIGHT-ERRANT.

CHAPTER I.

LAST DAYS AT HOME.



ANNY! let me hear you say once more, 'I forgive.'" The dying man looked into his daughter's eyes, to read there the words which she had said so often, and which he never seemed tired of hearing.

How was it that she could forget the weary, toilsome years which had made

6 *Fanny Percy's Knight-Errant.*

her old before even the sweet spring-tide of youth had come to her? Hers had been a hard life thus far, and it might have been so pleasant, so happy, but for the foe which had been in their household almost since she could remember, and which had made her father oh! so different from what he once had been. For, yes, now that love was drawing a veil over those last dark years, it seemed as if a faint light were thrown upon the early days of her childhood, when father, mother, sisters, and brothers had lived so happily together in that beautiful country place which had been sold from them so long ago; she could not, would not think of all that had inter-

vened since then—how, one after another, the dear ones had been taken away, and she alone of all those children left to drink to the full the cup of sorrow, whose capacity seemed deepening every year.

For from the time of his wife's death Mr. Percy had given himself up unrestrainedly to what had at first been only an occasional temptation. Her sweet, gentle influence had not been all in vain, but when it was removed there seemed no other way of "drowning thought," as he expressed it, except in the wine-cup. Oh! that he had learnt, before sorrow came, to look to the only Source of strength. Then he would