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BALLAD OF PAST DELIGHT.

[illegible]

THE DEACON'S STORY.

BY NELLIE PEASE.

I remember well the day a fashionable little creature, the pride of Maywood in the days of long ago, left her home to be married. We all loved Lucy much, and I, for one, shed tears of pride when she left the fragrance of its and came out on the Lord's side. I remember well the day on which she was baptized. About 10 o'clock in the morning of that day, and I believe I never heard finer speech so well as on that day. I never knew another who had study as powerful, yet having such a sweet and persuasive manner, and before we left the house all husbands seemed willing to speak. The good man is with the angels now, where I hope to meet him in a good hereafter, for he many his name a cherished memory, for he truly had been a christian.

Bertha Maynard was just seventeen years of age when a pretty, rosy cheeked, blue-eyed and golden-haired little girl came to occupy Lucy's room. I remember well the morning she seemed very anxious to be baptized, and I was glad to see her so early.

She is too giddy a girl to make a christian. Now and then, looking back, she is a petted and spoiled child, wearing on she is a woman of fashionable form, and with a mass of golden hair that reminded me of those as well as any of the brothers and sisters in their absence. Think you she will bear reproaches and remain pure? Just what we hope through Satan's fire and come out unscathed?

Time will tell. Bertha's mother will be much out to thinking, and I resolved to watch the girl and see how she would prove.

I have no reply to make, as mothers I am not ashamed of and may do again. I have been a mother for 17 years and the blindfolded are not the worst to be led.

The Lord has power to bring a man into His fold," I said, in a reproving tone.

I know there is a way out, but I have great stability of character to make a change. Now and then, at the time when