ANDRE HARVEY'S WIFE

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Andre Harvey's Wife by L. T. Meade

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L. T. MEADE

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"Happy dreams were visiting her."-Page 11.

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BY

L. T. MEADE

AUTHOR OF "A DWELLER IN TENTS," "MOU-SETSE,"
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CONTENTS.

	(CHAI	PTE	R I.					PAGE
UNDER A LAMP-POST		12			72			4	I
	C	HAP	TER	п.					
THE CHILDREN'S HOU	R.				1.0	200	109		3
	C	HAP	TER	III.					
JOHN MORGAN .					34	55			IO
	C	HAP	TER	IV.					
HER OWN PROPLE .			Ţ.,						18
		HAP	TER	v					
WHAT HARVEY THOUG					ROPL	E .	1.4	374	30
	_		WT 13			57.007.		100.5	3-
SIR ANDREW HARVEY	C	HAP	TER	VI.					000
SIR ANDREW HARVET	11.	_!	•						37
		IAPI	ER	VII.					200
HESTER'S CASTLE IN	THE	AIR		•	*	•	3.0	•	42
	CH	IAPT	ER '	VIII.					
THE STORY OF THE C	HILD	REN'S	HO	UR	120			0.8	53
	C	HAP	TER	IX.					
AN INVITATION TO AL	100,000							7.2	61
	C	HAP	TER	v					
HOW ALICE SANG "M				***	*				67
MINISTER PROPERTY OF		HAPT		VI	333	190	323	-33	100
THE LITTLE RIFT .		int.	LEK	^1.	122	90	221	892	76
		IAPT	D.D.	v:-	161		2.5		,-
A FALSE STEP .	Çr.	IAPI	ER	AII,					81
a rance other .						•	8	÷	0.
ITS IMMEDIATE RESUL		APT	BK 2	CIII.					86
IS IMMEDIATE RESUL				y Č.	•	•	•		60
		APT	ER :	XIV.					
SIR ANDREW'S RESOLV	3000			0.00		•			94
	CF	IAPT	ER	XV.					

CHAPTER XVII. CHAPTER XXIII. A PROMISE CHAPTER XIX, WHAT IT INVOLVED CHAPTER XX. "WHAT MADE ALL THE MUSIC MUTE" CHAPTER XXI. MOTHER AND CHILD CHAPTER XXII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE CHAPTER XXIII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE (continued) CHAPTER XXIV. HESTER'S BOY CHAPTER XXV. LITTLE ANDREW WON'T PROMISE. CHAPTER XXVII. AMERICAN PONIES. CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN. CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXVIII.	
CHAPTER XVII. CHAPTER XVIII. A PROMISE CHAPTER XIX, WHAT IT INVOLVED CHAPTER XX. "WHAT MADE ALL THE MUSIC MUTE" CHAPTER XXI. MOTHER AND CHILD CHAPTER XXII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE CHAPTER XXIII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE (continued) CHAPTER XXIV. HESTER'S BOY CHAPTER XXV. LITTLE ANDREW WON'T PROMISE. CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES. CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN. CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND"	36
CHAPTER XXIII. A PROMISE CHAPTER XIX, WHAT IT INVOLVED CHAPTER XX. "WHAT MADE ALL THE MUSIC MUTE" CHAPTER XXI. MOTHER AND CHILD CHAPTER XXII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE CHAPTER XXIII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE (continued) CHAPTER XXIV. HESTER'S BOY CHAPTER XXV. LITTLE ANDREW WON'T PROMISE. CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES. CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN. CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND"	14
CHAPTER XVIII. A PROMISE CHAPTER XIX, WHAT IT INVOLVED CHAPTER XX. "WHAT MADE ALL THE MUSIC MUTE" CHAPTER XXI. MOTHER AND CHILD CHAPTER XXII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE CHAPTER XXIII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE (continued) CHAPTER XXIV. HESTER'S BOY CHAPTER XXV. LITTLE ANDREW WON'T PROMISE CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXIX. "I HEAR THEE SPEAK OF A BETTER LAND"	
CHAPTER XX. WHAT IT INVOLVED CHAPTER XX. "WHAT MADE ALL THE MUSIC MUTE" CHAPTER XXI. MOTHER AND CHILD CHAPTER XXII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE CHAPTER XXIII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE (continued) CHAPTER XXIV. HESTER'S BOY CHAPTER XXV. LITTLE ANDREW WON'T PROMISE. CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES. CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN. CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND"	17
CHAPTER XX. WHAT IT INVOLVED CHAPTER XX. "WHAT MADE ALL THE MUSIC MUTE" CHAPTER XXI. MOTHER AND CHILD CHAPTER XXII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE CHAPTER XXIII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE (continued) CHAPTER XXIV. HESTER'S BOY CHAPTER XXV. LITTLE ANDREW WON'T PROMISE. CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES. CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN. CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND"	-
CHAPTER XX. "WHAT MADE ALL THE MUSIC MUTE" CHAPTER XXI. MOTHER AND CHILD CHAPTER XXII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE CHAPTER XXIII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE (continued) CHAPTER XXIV. HESTER'S BOY CHAPTER XXV. LITTLE ANDREW WON'T PROMISE CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXIX. "I HEAR THEE SPEAK OF A BETTER LAND"	22
CHAPTER XX. "WHAT MADE ALL THE MUSIC MUTE" CHAPTER XXI. MOTHER AND CHILD CHAPTER XXII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE CHAPTER XXIII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE (continued) CHAPTER XXIV. HESTER'S BOY CHAPTER XXV. LITTLE ANDREW WON'T PROMISE CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXIX. "I HEAR THEE SPEAK OF A BETTER LAND"	
CHAPTER XX. "WHAT MADE ALL THE MUSIC MUTE" CHAPTER XXI. MOTHER AND CHILD CHAPTER XXII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE CHAPTER XXIII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE (continued) CHAPTER XXIV. HESTER'S BOY CHAPTER XXV. LITTLE ANDREW WON'T PROMISE. CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES. CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN. CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXIX. "I HEAR THEE SPEAK OF A BETTER LAND"	10
"WHAT MADE ALL THE MUSIC MUTE" CHAPTER XXI. MOTHER AND CHILD CHAPTER XXII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE CHAPTER XXIII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE (continued) CHAPTER XXIV. HESTER'S BOY CHAPTER XXV. LITTLE ANDREW WON'T PROMISE. CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES. CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN. CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXIX. "I HEAR THEE SPEAK OF A BETTER LAND"	8.X.
CHAPTER XXI. MOTHER AND CHILD	10
CHAPTER XXII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE CHAPTER XXIII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE (CONSISSEED) CHAPTER XXIV. HESTER'S BOY CHAPTER XXV. LITTLE ANDREW WON'T PROMISE. CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES. CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN. CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXIX. "I HEAR THEE SPEAK OF A BETTER LAND"	
CHAPTER XXII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE	19
THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE	
CHAPTER XXIII. THE YEARS THAT WERE GONE (continued) CHAPTER XXIV. HESTER'S BOY CHAPTER XXV. LITTLE ANDREW WON'T PROMISE. CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES. CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN. CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXIX. "I HEAR THEE SPEAK OF A BETTER LAND"	6
CHAPTER XXVI. LITTLE ANDREW WON'T PROMISE. CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES. CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN. CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXIX. "I HEAR THEE SPEAK OF A BETTER LAND"	I
CHAPTER XXIV. HESTER'S BOY CHAPTER XXV. LITTLE ANDREW WON'T PROMISE. CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES. CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN. CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND" CHAPTER XXIX. "I HEAR THEE SPEAK OF A BETTER LAND"	
CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES. CHAPTER XXVII. AMERICAN PONIES. CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN. CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND". CHAPTER XXIX. "I HEAR THEE SPEAK OF A BETTER LAND".	В
CHAPTER XXV. LITTLE ANDREW WON'T PROMISE	
CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES. CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN	3
CHAPTER XXVI. AMERICAN PONIES	
CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN	I
CHAPTER XXVII. HOW THE DEVIL CAN TEMPT A MAN	
CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND"	7
CHAPTER XXVIII. "THE BETTER LAND"	
"THE BETTER LAND"	4
"THE BETTER LAND"	
CHAPTER XXIX. "I HEAR THEE SPEAK OF A BETTER LAND" IG	12
"I HEAR THEE SPEAK OF A BETTER LAND" IG	55.
	3
CHAPTER XXX.	
HER OWN PEOPLE	-
CHAPTER XXXI.	
IN THE THICK DARENESS 20	0
CHAPTER XXXII.	
A LETTER AND ITS STORY 20	9
CHAPTER XXXIII.	
BY THE SEA	8
CHAPTER XXXIV.	
WAVES THAT BEAT ON THE BETTER LAND 22	2



ANDREW HARVEY'S WIFE.

CHAPTER I.

UNDER A LAMP-POST.

YERTAINLY the night was a wretched one; rain fell, not in clean, refreshing showers, but in a cold, drizzling mist. Accompanying the mist was a fog-s London fog. The hour was eight o'clock, the month November. Such being the night, those who were out in it, exposed to its discomforts, had a certain right to the misery they were in their faces. Thinly clad women looked a shade thinner than usual; pale faces, as they were reflected in the gas-lamps, appeared ghastly; cathe and foul language, coming in muffled tones through the fog, sounded horrible, and the bitter cry of pain and want rang cruelly through the night air. But there are circumstances when even a London fog will not depress, and there are moments when the sun (metaphorically speaking) will shine, even though the hour be a late evening hour and the month November.

Yes, the night was a wretched one; but there were two people out in it, quite impervious to its miseries. A man and a woman stood under a lamp-post, at the corner of a long, quiet street. The place where they stood was nearly deserted, and the fog settled round them gloomily; but they noticed neither the gloom nor the stillness; they stood under one umbrella, and the man held the woman's left hand very firmly in his right. As I said the sun of happiness will shine, whatever the state of the weather, and it was blessing this pair now with a thousand glittering rays. The two faces, the one looking up, the other down, were young, handsome, radiant.

"It is all settled, then, Hester," said the man, "and I will call to-morrow night."

"Yes," she answered.

"Good night; farewell till then," he said, not kissing her, but pressing the hand he still held a trifle more firmly; then they parted, he hurrying Citywards, she hastening down the humble street where was her home.

