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NORTH POLE, Dec. 15th, 1907

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Signed SANTA CLAUS.

R. L. MORGAN J. RIGGS SUCCESSOR



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The English

BY MRS. MARY J. HOLMES

Author of "Lena Rivers," "The Homestead on the Hill," "Tempest and Sunshine," Etc.

CHAPTER XXI.

In Mrs. Mason's pleasant little din-ing parlor the tea-table was nearly spread for two, while old Judith, in starched gingham dress, white muslin apron, bustled in and out, occasionally changing the position of a curtain or chair, and then stepping backward to witness the effect. The stuffed rocking-chair, with two extra cushions and a pillow, was drawn up to the table, indicating that an invalid was expected to occupy that seat, while near one of the plates was a handsome bouquet, which Lydia Knight had carefully arranged, and brought over as a present for her young teacher. A dozen times had Lydia been told to "clip down to the and at last seating herself resignedly upon the hall stairs, Judith began to wonder "what under the sun and moon had happened."

She had not sat there long ere the sound of wheels again drew her to the door, and in a moment old Charlette and the yellow wagon entered the yard. Mary, who was now nearly well, sprang out, and bounding up the steps seized Judith's hand with a grasp which told how glad she was

"Why, you ain't dreadful sick, is you?" said Judith, peering under her

"Oh, no, not sick at all," returned Mary, and then, as she saw the chair, with its cushions and pillows, she burst into a loud laugh, which finally ended in a hearty cry, when she thought how kind was every one to

She had been at home but a few days when she was solicited to take charge of a small select school. But Mrs. Mason thought it best for her to return to Mount Holyoke, and accordingly she declined Mr. Knight's offer, greatly to his disappointment, and that of many others. Mrs. Bradley, who never on any occasion paid her school bill, was the loudest in her complaints, saying that, "for all Tim never lost a speck, and stood at the foot all summer long when Mary kept before, he'd got so sassy there was no living with him, and she wanted him

Widow Perkins instead of being sorry was glad; for if Mary didn't there was no reason why Sally Ann shouldn't. "You'll never have a better chance," said she to her daughter, "there's no stiffcut needed for a private school, and I'll clap on my things and run over to Mr. Knight's before he gets off to his

It was amusing to see Mr. Knight's look of astonishment when the widow made her application. Lydia, who chanced to be present, hastily retreated behind the pantry door, where

with her apron over her mouth she laughed heartily as she thought of a note, which the candidate for teaching had once sent him, and in which "i's" figured conspicuously, while her mother was "polightly thanked for those yeast!'

Possibly Mr. Knight thought of the note, too, for he gave the widow no encouragement, and when on her way home she called for a moment at Mrs. Mason's, she "thanked her stars that Sally Ann wasn't obliged to keep school for a livin', for down below where she came from teachers warn't

One morning about a week after Mary's return, she announced her intention of visiting her mother's grave. "I am accustomed to so much exercise," said she, "that I can easily walk three miles, and perhaps on my way home I shall get a ride."

Mrs. Mason made no objection, and

Mary was soon on her way. She was a rapid walker, and almost before she was aware of it, reached the village. As she came near Mrs. Campbell's the wish naturally arose that Ella should accompany her. Looking up she saw her sister in the garden and

called to her. "Wha-a-t?" was the very loud and uncivil answer which came back to her, and in a moment Ella appeared lessly swinging her straw flat, and humming a fashionable song. On seeing her sister she drew back the corners of her mouth into something which she intended for a smile, and said, "Why, I thought it was Bridget calling me, you looked so much like her in that gingham sunbonnet. Won't

you come in?" "Thank you," returned Mary, was going to mother's grave and thought perhaps you would like to accompany me.

"Oh, no," said Ella, in her usual drawling tone, "I don't know as want to go. I was there last week and saw the monument." "What monument?" asked Mary,

and Ella replied: "Why, didn't you know that Mrs. Mason, or the town, or somebody, had bought a monument, with mother's and father's and Franky's and Allie's

Mary waited for no more, but turned to leave, while Ella, who was anxious to inquire about Ida Selden, and who could afford to be gracious now that neither Miss Porter nor the city girls were there, called after her to stop and rest when she came back. Mary promised to do so, and then hurrying on, soon reached the grave-yard, where, as Ella had said, there stood by her parents' graves a large handsome monument.

William Bender was the first person who came-into her mind, and as she thought of all that had passed between them, and of this last proof of his affection, she seated herself among the tall grass and flowers which grow upon her mother's grave, and burst into tears. She had not sat there long ere she was roused by the sound of a footstep. Looking up, she say before her the young gentleman who the year previous had visited her school in Rice Corner. Seating himself re-spectfully by her side, he spoke of the three graves, and asked if they were her friends who slept there. There was something so kind and af-fectionate in his voice and manner that Mary could not repress her tears, and snatching up her bonnet, which she had thrown aside, she hid her face in it and again went

For a time Mr. Stuart suffered her to weep, and then gently removed the was dying, and they had sent for gingham bonnet, and holding her her." hand between his, he tried to divert her mind by talking upon other top-ics, asking her how she had been employed during the year, and appearing greatly pleased when told that she had been at Mount Holyoke. Observing, at length, that her eyes constantly rested upon the monument, spoke of that, praising its beauty, and asking if it were her taste.

"No," said she, "I never saw it until to-day, and did not even know it "Some one wished to surprise you, dare say," returned Mr. Stuart. It

was manufactured in Boston, I see.

Have you friends there?" Mary replied that she had one, a Mr. Bender, to which Mr. Stuart quickly rejoined, "Is it William Bender? I have heard of him through our mutual friend, George Moveland, whom you perhaps have seen."

Mary felt the earnest gaze of the large, dark eyes which were fixed upon her face, and coloring deeply, she replied that they came from England in the same vessel.

"I'd rather you would not," answered Mary. "Our paths in life are very different; and he of course would

feel no interest in me." "Am I to conclude that you, feel no interest in him?" returned Mr. Stuart, and again his large eyes rested on Mary's face with a curious

But she made no reply, and soon rising up, said it was time for her to

"Allow me to accompany you as far as Mrs. Campbell's," said Mr. Stuart. "I am going to call upon Miss Ella, whose acquaintance I accidentally made last summer. Suppose you call too. You know her, of course?" Mary replied that she did, and was

about to speak of the relationship between them, when Mr. Stuart abruptly changed the conversation, and in a moment more they were at Mrs. Campbell's door. Ella was so much delighted at again seeing Mr. Stuart all, and did not even ask her to reawhile upon indifferent subjects, Mr. Stuart asked Ella to play, saying he was very fond of music. But Ella, like other fashionable ladies, couldn't of course play anything-"was dreadfully out of practice and besides that, her music was all so old fashioned.' Mr. Stuart had probably seen such

cases before, and knew how to manage them, for he continued urging the matter until Ella arose, and throwing back her curls, sauntered toward the piano, saying she should be obliged to have some one turn the leaves for her. Mr. Stuart of course volunteered his services, and after a violent turning of the music-stool by way of elevating it, and a turning back by way of lowering it, Ella, with the air of a martyr,

declared herself ready to play whatever Mr. Stuart should select, proided it were not "old." A choice being made, she dashed off into a spirited waltz, skipping a good many notes, and finally ending with

a tremendous crash. Fond as Mr. Stuart was of music, he did not call for a repetition from her, but turning to Mary asked if she could play. Ella laughed aloud at the idea, and occasionally drowned by Sally's voice, when Mary replied that she did play a little, she laughed still louder, say- shriek, and then died away in a low, ing, "Why she can't play, unless it's sad wail, as she sang a lullaby to the

something of that kind." "Allow me to be the judge," said Mr. Stuart, and leading Mary to the piano, he bade her play anything she

Ida had been a taithful teacher, and Mary a persevering pupil, so that whatever she played was played correctly and with good taste; at least Mr. Stuart thought so, for he kept calling for piece after piece, until she laughingly told him her catalogue was nearly exhausted, and she'd soon be obliged to resort to the scales!

Ella looked on in amazement, and when Mary had finished playing, demanded of her where she had learned so much, and who was her teacher; adding that her fingering was wretched; "but then," said she, suppose you can't help it, your fingers

For a moment Mr. Stuart regarded her with an expression which it seemed to Mary she had seen before, and then consulting his watch, said he must go, as it was nearly car time. After he was gone Ella asked Mary endless questions as to where she met him, what he said, and if she told him they were sisters. "How elegant-ly he was dressed," said she. "Didn"t you feel dreadfully ashamed of your gham sunbonnet and gown?"

"Why, no," said Mary. "I never "I should, for I know he notices everything," returned Ella; and then learning on her elbow so as to bring herself in range of the large mirror me my ouris are not arranged be-

really thought so, Mary replied, "that

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Without ever asking her sister to e room. Upon finding herself unceremoniously deserted, Mary bonnet, and started for home. She had reached the place where Ella the year before met with Mr. Stuart, when she saw a boy, who she knew was living at the poorhouse, coming down the hill as fast as a half-blind old horse could bring him. When he got opposite to her he halted, and with eyes projecting like harvest apples, told her to "jump in, for Mrs. Parker

"I've been to your house," said he "and your marm thought mebby I'd

Mary immediately sprang in, and by adroitly questioning Mike, whose intellect was not the brightest in the world, managed to ascertain that Mrs. Parker had been much worse for several days, that Sal Furbush had turned nurse, faithfully attending her night and day, and occasionally sharing "her vigils" with a "sleek, fancy-looking girl, who dressed up in meetin' clothes every day, and who had first proposed sending for Mary." Mary readily guessed that the "sleek, fancy-looking girl" was Jenny, and on reaching the poorhouse she found her suspicions correct, for Jenny came out to meet her, followed by Sally who exclaimed, "Weep, O daughter, and lament, for earth has got one woman Passing into the house, Mary followed Jenny to the same room where

once her baby sister had lain, and where now, upon the same table, lay all that was mortal of Mrs. Parker. "Indeed!" said Mr. Stuart. "When Miss Grundy, who was standing near the trum to the city, shall I refresh the body, bowed with a look of very his memory a little with regard to becoming resignation, and then as it quite overcome, left the room. Just then a neighbor, who seemed to be superintending affairs, came in, and Mary asked what she could do to as-

"Nothing until to-morrow, when, it you please, you can help make the shroud," answered the woman, and Jenny, catching Mary around neck, whispered, "You'll stay night with me; there's no one home but Rose, and we'll have such a

Mary thought of the little room up stairs where Alice had died, and felt a desire to sleep there once more, but upon inquiry she found that it was now occupied by Sally Furbush. "You must come and see my little

parlor," said she to Mary, and taking her hand she led her up to the room, which was greatly improved. A strip of faded but rich carpeting was before the bed. A low rockingchair stood near the window, which was shaded with a striped muslin curthat she hardly noticed her sister at tain, the end of which was fringed out nearly a quarter of a yard, plainmove her bonnet. After conversing ly showing Sally's handiwork. The contents of the old barrel were neatly stowed away in a square box, on the top of which lay a worn portfolio, stuffed to its utmost capacity with

> "For all this elegance," said Sally, "I am indebted to my worthy and esteemed friend, Miss Lincoln But Mary did not hear, for her eyes were riveted upon another piece of furniture. At the foot of the bed stood Alice's cradle, which Billy Bender

"Oh! Sally," said she, " how came "Why," returned Sally, hitting i "I don't sleep any now, and I thought the nights would seem shorter if I had this to rock and make believe little Willie was in it. So brought it down from the garret, and

it affords me a sight of comfort, I

had brought there on that afternoon

Mary afterwards learned that often during the long winter nights the

sound of that cradle could be heard, which sometimes rose almost to a 'Days of Absence' with one hand, or | "Willie who lay sleeping on the prairie at the West.

As there was now no reason why she should not do so, Mary accomhad expected, she met with a cool reception from Rose, who merely nodded to her, and then resumed the book she was reading. After tea Mary stepped for a moment into the yard, and then Rose asked Jenny what she intended doing with her "genteel visi-

"Put her in the best chamber, and sleep there myself," said Jenny, adding that "they were going to lie awake all night just to see how it seemed." But in spite of this resolution, as midnight advanced Jenny found that Mary's answers, even when Bill Bender was the topic, became more and more unsatisfactory, and finally ceas-ed altogether. Concluding to let her sleep a few minutes, and then wake her up. Jenny turned on her pillow, and when her eyes again opened the morning sun was shining through the half-closed shutters, and the breakfast bell was jingling in the lower

When Mary returned to the poorhouse she found a new arrival in the company him home. Mike, who had very serious throat and lung trouble an eye for "fancy-looking girls," did the patient had been using Psychine. of the scholhouse, was some way down common expression) "that she had a power of a remedy that will "stand power of a remedy that will stand power of a remedy that will "stand power of a remedy that will stand power of a remedy that will intentions. "Thanking her stars" (her ed on foot, reaching the poorhouse what had been Mrs. Parker's room, and with pursed-up lips, and large square collar very much like the presthe shroud, heaving occasionally a state. I had la grippe the year before; it settled on my lungs and I kept steadily growing worse lonely and desolate poor Mr. Parker

"Will you give me some work?" asked Mary, after depositing her bonnet upon the table.

"There's nothing for you," returned Mrs. Perkins. "I can do all that is necessary, and prefer working alone." "Yes, she shall help too, if she wants to," snapped out Mrs. Grundy, with one of her old shoulder jerks. "Mary's handy with the needle, for I arnt her myself."-

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(Continued on page 3)

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