The Sunshine of the Family

CHAPTER XIV. Minio's feelings were decidedly mixed Roger related at the breakfast table the whole story of the previous night Allson was a little surprised by the attention she received. Her pale cheeks and heavy eyes secured a good deal of

notting. Mr. Merle questioned her anx lously whether she had caught cold: Miss Leigh fairly overflowed with tender inquiries; Roger waited on her scalously, vions neglect of his breakfast. Missie whole affair. Allson had done very little after all, but they were all making such a fuss over it. She was doubly vexed when Miss Hardwick came in, full of enthusiasm for that dear, clever Alison. She

had met Roger, and he had stopped and given her and Anna a full account. Missie had to listen to 'more eulogiums, though Alison modestly disclaimed all praise. Miss Hardwick quite frightened do anything. Anna can go in Mabel's her when she assured her the whole thing place, but you must insist on bringing would be soon all over the town.

"You will be a nine days' wonder, my dear," she said, graciously. "People will stare at you when you walk through the streets. Fancy locking the wretch in: It was quite horrible and romantic, must run home and tell mamma and Anthony all about it."

All this was rather a trial to Allson. afforded was when Roger showed her a letter be had written to Aunt Diana.

with gratification as she read the glowa moment: "Don't believe all Roger cays, dear Aunt Di. I never felt more made of such cowardly stuff; they do not deal too much of it."

Alison would have been quite happy during the next few days except for the depressing effect of Missie's ill-humor. attack of jealousy. Missie sought consolution in Eva's Satteries. Her visits to Maplewood were now of daily occurrence. Alison once ventured to remonstrate.

"I do not think papa would be quite his brief absence, pleased, Mabel, if he knew you were so much in Captain Harper's company," she said, very gently.

"Captain Harper, indeed!" returned Missie, haughtily. "You need not trouble yourself, Alison. My visits are not to

"No, dear, of course not," replied All son, in a pleading tone. "But, all the same, you are going every day to Maple and that throws you necessarily into his company. Miss Hardwick can well banish her cousin from the room; and, Mabel, I do feel that it is no quite bonorable to papa. He trusts us to carry out his expressed wishes, and it this you are setting them aside."

"I wish you would mind your own busi ness. Allson," she said, angrily. "You have no right to lecture me because you are the eldest. Eva says I am quite justi fied in asserting myself. I hope I know my duty without your always pointing It out to me, and you may leave pape to me. We have always understood each other perfectly and there is never any thing wrong between us unless you choose

to go and tell tales." "Mabel how can you be so disagree able?" began Alison botty But also cooled down on remembering Aunt Diana's advice. "Nover get warm over an aren ment, Allie When you begin to feel angry It is time to hold your tongue." And Ali son held bern

She would have been a little comforted If she had known how ill at case Missie really was. Her high complexion and erom speech only proved that the arrow had gone home. She knew in her secreet heart that she was behaving dishonor ably. Her father trusted her, and she was betraying his trust. The very next day she had planned to join Eva and her cousin in a pleasure excursion, though she knew it was an act of tacit dischedience, but self-will only gains strength by indulgetice.

Alison's vague measiness that led to her apeaking was changed into position alarm when Roger came into her room that night. He was in evening dress having just returned from an early par ty. Allson was waiting up for him. She had out off her dress, changing it for dainty pink dressing gown. She looker up brightly at him as he entered.

"Allie," he said, sitting down by her "I am so bothered about something have heard to-night. Did you know that Mabel was going down to Durhans with Mins Hardwick and Captain Harper to Morrow?"

"Why, no!" she said, starting a little "What place did you say, dear?"

"Durbana. It is about twenty miles from here. There are woods there where people go for picnics. I meant to have taken you and Mabel one day, only we should have gone by train. Miss Anna the Mereditha', and she told me all about it quite innocently. It seems that Captain Harper has sent for his dog eart and he means to drive them over They are to have dinner and ten at the Chatle Inn : so they mean to be away the whole day.

"Oh, Roger! what shall we do?" exelaimed Allson. "If papa were only here I would go to him at once. Mabel has so right to deceive him in this way, and I should certainly get him to put a stop to it at once, but now he will not be home until te-merrow.

"He may possibly come by an earlier train, he told me so as we walked to the etation. It will depend on how long businone will detain him. Of course we should fall him. Allie; the thing is beyond a foke. Fancy that fellow having the auselfy to propose such a thing. I wish I know what I could do about it. Allie. but father's absence obliges me to be in the office. I must be in the yard early. too. I shall not even be able to speak

to Minnie. will tell her what you say, an of course, she will be obliged to give returned Alison, not relishing her that at all, but counting, nevertheless, on an easy victory. Missie had put herself detely in the wrong that no choice anhydenion was left to her. Roger he knew Missie perfectly, was not so

her that if she goes I shall cerform father, and then he will to her visits to Maplewood, bee, too that I am perfectly anduct. I am afraid

"Very well," she sighed. But she lay she would use.

Alison awoke with a strange oppresbecame nervously conscious that she might! sudden flash of a sunbeam out of a pass-She was a little later than usual in going down to open the gates she compelled down. Roger had already had his break- herself to return to the house. fast and had gone to the mill, and the

stricken voice, laying down her slice of out of the way, and you and Nanny be bread and jam: "Missie came into my in readiness for what is wanted. Hot room before I was dressed, and told me | water-I suppose they will want that, to tell you she would not want any and I don't know what besides." And breakfast—she was going to have it at here her voice suddenly failed, for wheels Maplewood. She looked so smart, Alison, were evidently coming up the graveled in her new bige dress. It was rather funns of her to put it on for breakfast." school room a moment, if you have finished?" said Alison, quietly; but the governess noticed that she looked rather pale, and rose at once, but she was even more shocked than Alison when she heard the stranger. There was nothing to do: her

whole story. "My dear, your papa will never forgive us if we do not prevent it." she said. very solemply. "You none of you know how particular he is; and this will seem dreadful to him. You must go to Maplewood yourself, Alison, and speak to Mrs. Hardwick. She is the only one who can Mabel home. I will not answer for the consequences if this affair comes to your father's ears," continued the governess. moved to tears at this fresh instance of Missie's self-will.

Alison thought this such good advice that she put on her bat at once and walked over to Maplewood. It was not a pleasant errand, she felt, and she bardly Perhaps the greatest pleasure the day knew what she would say to Mrs. Hardwick. She only knew she would refuse to return without Missie, even if she had "Oh, you foolish boy," she said, coloring to brave the obnoxious Captain Harper himself. But her face fell when she enger's warm heart. But the tears were Hardwick and Anna alone; the others had just driven from the door. Seeing little space left, and she wrote burriedly that her visit was useless Alison returned across it, when Roger had left the room | home. Roger met her at the gate with the news that Mr. Merle had returned.

trightened in my life; heroines are not only just come across from the mill," he continued. "Would you like me to tell set in a panic. They all make a great him, dear, or do you think you can do it

"We will go together," returned Alison, upcasily. "I am so afraid that be will put himself out, and then you will Missie was plainly suffering from a bad know what to say," And Roger acquiesc-

They found Mr. Merle in his study. looking somewhat fagged and weary, but he held out his hand with a smile, as though he were pleased to see them after

"Where is Pussie?" he asked; "she is generally the drst to welcome me." And he looked round as though he were disap-

"Dear papa,' returned Alison, bravely, "I am afraid you will be vexed about something. We have none of us seen Mabel this morning; she breakfasted at Maplewood. Roger met Anna at the Meredith's last night, and she told him that Mabel had promised to join Eva and her cousin in an excursion to Durbana I went over to speak to Mrs. Hardwick and bring Mahel back, but they had al-

"What!' thundered Mr. Merle, and the blackness of his brow was dreadful to Alison, "do you dare to tell me that Mabel has gone over to Durbana in that man's company, when I forbade any interrourse with him?

"Captain Harper is driving them in his dog-cart," rejoined Roger, coming to his sister's relief. "It seems a very silly af fair, and I begged her to stop it; it is no fault of here or of mine, father, Missie slipped out of the house while they were at breakfast, and though Alison started off to Maplewood as soon as she could she was just too late."

"No, it is not your fault," returned Mr. Merle, gloomily. "Mabel must lover the brunt of her own disobedience. Miss Hardwick shall never enter this house

"Would you like me to take an early afternoon train to Durbans?" interrunted Roger, who had already conceived this plan, "and when I could join them; there a a racant seat in the dog cart."

"Look out a train in the time table." he said, suddenly; "I will go myself, Roger. Mahel shall not return in the dog cart; I shall bring her back by train."

CHAPTER XV.

Alison passed an anxious and solitary afternoon, and as she sat alone at her needle work she could not divest her mind of all sorts of gloomy anticipations. She know her father to be a man of strong passions; she dreaded the effects of his displeasure on Mahel. His severity would be tempered with justice, but still weight of his anger would be crushing. Alison's tender heart was full of compunction and pity for poor Missie

Toward evening she seated herself der the lime trees within view of the gate. Poppie had come home from her walk, and was playing about the lawn. Now and then Poppie claimed her attention. The time passed unheeded, and she woke up with a start to the conviction | kins that it was nearly eight, and the early autumn twilight was creeping over the

So late, and they had not arrived, and what could have become of Roger? She called to Poppie burriedly to run into the house, as it was bedtime and her supper was waiting in the school room, and the little girl had hardly left her before the latch of the gate was raised, and in another moment Roger came rapidly toward her.

He looked heated, as though he had been walking fast, but it was a white heat, and it struck Alison suddenly that he was ill, or that he had heard some

"Don't be frightened, Allie," he said, in a quick, nervous voice, that certainly did not reassure her, neither did the touch of his cold, damp hand. "I have ome first to prepare you; be as brave as you can, for your help is wanted." "Something dreadful has happened

Oh, Roger, he quick." "They thing to do. returned, still more hurriedly. came back by train oh, why did he not send me?-there was an accident. I was down at the station and saw them come in. They are both hurt; at least, I am afraid Missie is, only she will not say so

"Oh, Roger!" and Allson's figure swa for a moment on his arm until !made her sit down, for the sudden show had turned her lips white. She could

but father is the worst."

not may more at that moment. "We do not know yet," he half whispered; "there are two doctors with him. and they are bringing him home. had a blow, and was insensible, but they can not tell yet; there is no wound There, I hear them coming. Allie; pull ourselves together; we must not think of earth. It is now growing more than anything but him."

"No, no," and she gave a quick gulp, awake a long time revolving what words and the color came back to her lips. The sparrows were twittering sleepily in the icy. "And one of them shall not fail sion upon her—a sense of difficulty, that; on the ground without your Father," made the daylight seem less bright. She i seemed to come into her mind, like the fail. What if her severity were of no ing cloud. He was in the Divine hands: avail, and Missie should persist in going? | she must remember that. As Roger went

"Sarah, there has been an accident." meal was half over before she suggested | she heard berself say, only her voice did that Popple should knock at Mabel's door. I not seem to belong to her. "Send Eliza "Oh, I forgot," returned Poppie, in a to the school room, to keep Miss Popple sweep. The next few minutes were simply horrible to Alison. The two doctors "Miss Leigh, will you come into the and Roger, and some man from the railway, were all helping in removing her father's inanimate figure from the vehicle. Alison recognized the family practitioner, Dr. Greenwood, but the other was a father's room was in readiness, and Roger was there to show them the way. She could only lean against the wall as they passed with a fleeting consciousness that her father's eyes were still closed, and that there was something terrible in the inert, heavy droop of the limbs. "Very gently," she heard Dr. Greenwood say. "Yes, I know the room; that is the door, Cameron." And then it closed after them, and she felt some one grip her arm.

"Help me upstairs, Alison," sald Missie, hoursely. She had crept out of the fly unsided, and now stood by Alison's side in the dark ball. Alison had almost forgotten her in that moment's agony but when Roger had said surely she was not much hurt, yet there she was clinging to her sister with a white, stony face.

"Lean on me, dear!" exclaimed Alison, passing her arm tenderly round her; but to her alarm Missie uttered a sharp cry

"No. don't touch me, not that side; I own room if I can only get there." And leaning heavily on Alison's shoulder, she toiled slowly up the staircese, her faint ness and difficulty evidently increasing at every step, but her strong will supporting her until they reached the threshold and then she auddenly tottered, and if Alison had not caught her in her arms, she would have fallen. Alison dared not call loudly for assistance, for they were close to her father's room; but she was young and strong, and she just managed to drag Missie to a chair and summon one of the frightened servants, when Missie revived.

"I am so bruised all over," she said. to know; they had to look after papa; but I am afraid my arm is broken." (To be continued.)

TOTAL CONTRACT NITROGLYCERIN CAN LEAKED.

So Bowers Shot His Wagon as Well as the Oil Well.

An explosion near Oleopolis the oth er day caused the residents to turn out to look for the remains of the oil-well shooter they supposed had been blown up by the nitroglycerin he was handling, says a Franklin (Pa.) dispatch to the New York Sun. Investigation showed that William Bowers, a shooter from Rouseville, had gone to shoot well on the Trax lease with fifty quarts of nitroglycerin and had discovered that one of the caus had sprung a leak and part of the contents had seeped into the bottom of his wagen.

After should g the well Bowers removed his horses to safety and then attached a fuse to the remaining can and blew a \$250 wagen to atoms. It was the only thing to do under the cir-

Examined under a interescope, nitrogiverin has the appearance of a mass of round globules, and these globules may be safely shaken in the can so ong as one of them does not burst. When one does burst the entire load is sure to go off, taking shooter, wagon and all.

cause of more nitroglycetin explosions than any other thing, and the shooters use every presention to prevent leaking and jarring. The wagons are specially built for the trade. They are lined with cushions, in which each man sits snugly, and the springs are made capecially to take up the lar and concus-

sions that must be met. Bowers must have driven for miles with death threatening him at every turn of the wheels, mecons lons of his danger, and his life was only saved by one of those pranks of nitroglycerin so familiar to the oil-country shooter Through the presence of mind of another shooter, Joseph Schultz, the lives

of five men were saved recently when at Rena a well was sint with sixts quarts of aftro-glycerin. On the derrick floor as spectators were Andrew Moynihan, owner of the well; Lee Umpstead, M. McDonald and James Har-

Schultz had lowered three shells into he well, intending to explode all three at once. A shell is about eight feet long and four inches in circumference. and to the upper end of it a handle of copper wire is soldered. A sand line passing over a pulley at the top of the derrick is fastened to the shell with book and in this way the giveerin is lowered into the hole.

Several extra yards of the sand line were run into the hole with the expectation that the book would shaken loose from the torpedo. Tothe engine was reversed and the liv

started upward. Schultz was guiding the line as i emerged from the well with one hand and holding the engine lever with the other when he made the discovery that the hook had not been detached and the torpedo or shell was being dragged "I have no time to tell you much," he to the surface. There was only one

> Schultz shut off the engine, and as the torpedo emerged from the hole he grabbed it and hung on for dear life. The engine came to a stop before the orpedo was drawn entirely through s arms, and death just missed the

> Schultz calmly readjusted the cap owered the torpedo into the well and successfully exploded all three shells and later in the afternoon shot a wel at Sage Run for McCollum & Co.

Inside of twelve years New York promises to be the largest city on the six times as fast as London.

Wealthy Devotees of Sport Pay Big Prices for "L warf Horses" Raised on the Western Ranches.

BY W. C. VREELAND.

Polo is distinctly a sport for the wealthy. The chief requirement for playing the game is the pony, and the price of the little animal has scared since the game has attained such popularity in this country until a good pony now brings a price in the four figures. As a string of ponies is essential to the devotee of the sport and competition among mil lionaires is keen to obtain the fleetest and surest of foot, polo ponies may be said to be worth their weight

in gold. ponies for \$10,125, an average of \$1,-125 each. Express, one of the best ponies, brought \$3,100, and Blue Peter, another famous pony, was sold for \$2,500. Both were bid in by Paul a turfman and a polo enthusiast. Keene for \$1,500.

Polo ponies come from Texas, Wy-'raw" ponies are shipped East they in have never felt the keen tooth of the currycomb. If sold in the maret at \$2.50 a head a profit is realized. Likely-looking ponies sell even as high as \$500 to \$1,000.

Auction sales of seasoned ponies are very rare in this country, but in England many sales of veteran ponles are held. The record price of \$6,500 was received for a veteran pony ten years ago at Tattersalls. About five years ago Thomas Hitchcock, jr. sold Rowdy and E. W. after several scason's campaigning. Rowdy brought \$800 and E. W. \$500. John A. Logan, jr., who ten years ago was a noted poloist, sold six seasoned poples at an average price of \$600. The best of the ponics bred on the

plains are those used for "cutting out" the young calves from the cows at branding time. The experience of the ponles in rounding up cattle makes them sure-footed, intelligent, Aggressive and courageous. These popies are worth from \$750 to \$1,000 to the ranchman. They are not sent East with the ordinary ponics for sale, but are disposed of privately.

There are not more than a dozen men who bring the pontes on from the West. The shipment o' ponies is consigned to Long Island, West chester County and Brookline, Mass. places where the polo playing contingent reside. After reaching the East the ponies usually sell readily. There is always a brisk demand for this class of horses. One Westerner recently sold three carloads in three days and then returned home with \$20,000 in his pocket. The favorite ponies in England are dwarf thoroughbreds, capable of carry weight and with the endurance to gallop at top speed on a slow field. Occasionally they have been used in country, but none of the quick American players who have visited Hurling ham, the great pole matches abroad has ever returned with the English pony. American poloists consider 'be mixed-bred Westerner ranch pony Leaking caus have probably been the the better of the two. He has pleny of speed and can gallop on the hard turf, while the English pony is for country members temporarily in

accustomed to soft going Many of the better class of polo ponies are the result of transfusion of good English blood by mating sta! fons from abroad with American ranch mares. Another cross with the rotter has been productive of good results, and the foals have shown speed and stability. - New York

THE MAN OF FALLEN FORTUNES

His Opinion of His Fellow Man as Deduced From Hard Experience.

"Losing one's money," said the man of fallen fortunes, "is not without its compensating comforts; for instance, in the discovery of one's real friends.

"When I was rich I never knew for sure whether a man, being rich, was drawn to me because I was rich also or whether, being poor, he was drawn to me because he thought I could help him! but it was easy to tell

after I had lost my money "The proudest gratification that got then I found in the loyalty of my family. One and all they stood by me with a gentle sympathy and unfaltering devotion that has continued to the present moment and that know will never fail-my strongest and more encouraging support.

"And then I began to make discoveries about my friends, to discover which were fair weather friends. which were friends only when could help them, and which were friends through thick and thin; and found friendliness to exist as a bedrock enduring quality in rich and

"There is this to be said about the tich man and his money: When a man has made money he hates to give it up. But I have known rich men who proved themselves wart staying friends indeed; gave though the chances of the money ever coming back to them-if they house."-Everybody's. thought of that at all-must have seemed very slim; men who gave with a prompt readiness that took all the sting out of the necessity of asking with a willingness that was of itself most helpful and cheering.

"And then while I have had men drum me for small debts which I was me to take away from me a bur nels .- New York World

den: 'Forget it, old man; don't worry yourself over that. We'll just simply cross that off the books and call it square.' And—and this is not the least of the things that have solaced me-there are men, rich men and men not rich, with whom my relations in another day were friend ly, who have treated me always ever I since personally just the same, with absolutely unbroken kindness and congideration.

"So my misfortune has revealed to me friends whose real friendliness I might otherwise not have known; and the world seems kinder to me than it did before. We must look out for ourselves; self-preservation is the first law of nature; but still the fact remains that the rub of men are a pretty good lot, ready to heip others.

"It remains only for a man to help himself; and by all this kindness to me, emboldened anew, I am, I con fide to you, and with prospects most cue-ring, now making another try at fortune."-New York Sun.

WHAT AILS OUR FARMS?

Chiefly, Say the Experts, the Greet of the Farmers.

In the closing decade of the last century the land values of Ohic shrank \$60,000,000. In Minnesota, the great wheat State, the average Foxhall Keene recently sold nine | yield an acre has dropped one bushel in the last five years. In Kansas the retrogression is even more mark-

The census report gives the average annual product an acre of all J. Rainey, the young multi-millionaire, the farms in the United States as worth \$11.38. This figure, poor as it Crotona, another pony, was bid in by is, must owe a great deal to the newly opened territories, for the great agricultural States of Minnesota oming or Montana. Before the and Illinois fell considerally below

> With the most fertile land in the world, says the Craftsman, we are producing much less than other peoples extract from lands of poorer quality and longer subjection to tilth. During the ten years ending with 1906 we raised thirteen and five-tenths bushels of wheat to the acre. In Austria and Hungary the average was seventeen bushels; in France it was nineteen and eight tenths; in Germany, twenty-seven and six-tenths; and in the United Kingdom, thirty-two and two-tenths bushels. The figures for barley, oats

As an illustration of what can be done here under intensive farming may be stated that in Yellow stone county. Montana the following yields an acre have been secured; Wheat, 53 bushels, oats, 163 bushels, and pointoes, 1.213 bushels, while 1.420 tons of alfalfa have been grown

and other crops show the same con

The impoverishment of our lands has been brought about in the main by single cropping and the neglect of fertilization Almost everywhere in the country it has been the practice of our farmers to select the crop which promised the best in mediate return and to plant their fields in it year after year without rest or change, and in spite of the protests of scientists and the demonstrations of agricultural colleges and experiment stations.

Whereas arable land should under proper treatment grow richer an more bountiful year by year, our agr cultural acres are deteriorating en fact that the owner derives from hem an appual income equal to no rental if they were in ordinary condition and properly cultivated

The Early Bird.

A very steady and serious country Hished metropolitan club which offered the usual advantage of bedrooms town. When next the country gentleman came to town he put up for the night at the club, which had in the meantime become extremely fashionable and its hours correspond ingly irregular. The visitor went of bed at an early hour when all was orderly and the other members decorous and quiet

The next morning he came down for breakfast at his usual houreight o'clock-but was surprise! dusting process and not a cloth on the tables. While he was gazing helplessly around, a sleepy-eyed waiter came up to him.

"I beg your pardon, sir," he said apologetically. "but no suppers car be served after half past seven." Harper's Weekly.

With the Minstrels.

"Mistah Walkah, wot am de dif funce 'tween a trav-ler startin' Tangier an' a plate o' veal hash? "I give that one up, George, What is the difference between a traveller starting for Tangler and a plate of veal hash?"

"De one am Morocco bound, an de uddah am half calf." "Ladies and gentlemen, the celebrated vocalist, Prof. Rox de Bote will now sing that beautiful and touching sentimental ballad, "Take Your Face Away, Clarence; You

Have Been Using a Safety Razor."

-Chicago Tribune.

The Overestimated Irishman. "Dose Irish makes me sick, always talking aboud vat gread fighders der are," said a Teutonic resident of Hoboken with great contempt.

"Vhy, at Minna's vedding der od der night dot drunken Mike O'Hooll gan butted in, und me und mein brud der und mein cousin Fritz and mein frient, Louis Hartman-vhy, ve pret ty near kicked him oudt of der

Summer Conventions.

Summer conventions promote good fe'lowship, stimulate patriotism, expand the men'al herizon, refine man ners and serve the good end of mak ing the notion better acquainted with able to pay off only very slowly I itself. Viewed in their commercial have had men to whom I owed big aspect, they increase railway earnger debts say to me-and this out of ings, swell the volume of retail trade sheer kindliness and friendliness to and diffuse money into new chanCOAL, STONE, BLACK DIRT, TORPEDO GRAVEL, BRICK, SAND, MOVING

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