Aunt Diana:

The Sunshine of the Family

CHAPPER XIX .-- (Continued.) It was a lovely evening, as Missie said one of those rare September evenings that come when summer and autumn seem blending into each other. Alison stood for a moment in the hall, debating whethor she was too tired to seek Roger in the timber yard, or whether she should indulge in solitary musing under the lime tries. A free half hour was a delicious boon, and she must employ it to the best advantage. She decided after a moment that she was too dull for even Roger's company to cheer her-for she was in one of those moods that the masculine mind finds so difficult to understand and she was-just taking down her garden hat from the peg when a figure came between her and the evening light, a familiar voice son was in Aunt Diana's arms.

Miss Carrington's kisses were very grave and tender. They spoke volumen, but she seemed to have no words at the all about your poor father." But Alison's "Oh, Aunt Di!" her face almost pitifully.

an-her careages meant something out of little the common. They brought Alison's soft color back, and the happy tears came into

"I am glad I did not tell you," returned, unsteadily; "I shall be quite well and rested now I have seen your dear face again. Oh. Aunt 11, how I have wanted you," her voice sinking still

"Yes, I know," replied Miss Carrington, almost abruptly all the more beyou have thought of my silence? Come, let' ms ait down somewhere where I can talk to you without interruption. I don't want to see any other face but yours for the present -not even Itoger's,"

turned Alison, besitating a little, Leigh is in the drawing room and ftudel in the dining room, and Stoger generally Wait a moment, Aunt Di. please: I must sak Sarah to make some know your taste -- Aunt Di can not go

without her ten." freshment. She waited to see the cubman deposit her luggage in the ball, and then she followed Alison upstairs

MM's dear," she observed, looking round her as she entered, "this is not your old room; I thought this was Missie's?"

"Yes, but Missie had mine, and I did not like to turn her out-it would only have caused unpleasantness. Please do not look so grieved, Aunt Di: I have so much as I did at first ... at least, it does

Well, you have soured fark, heavily furnished room.

omened Alison, gently, as she unfastened Miss Carrington's mantle and waited on have an idea that they are germine. of which she took possession

"That is right," observed Miss Car rington, stroking the brown head that laid trastf in child fashion on her lap. Alison was no very tired there was ofter abandon in her attitude, and yet she was so

talks don't look at the door, Allie I an in no burry for my ten. My dear, I am longing to tell you how it is your letters have misearried; I read them all for the first time last night.

"Aunt Di, do ron mean that you have flown to us only telegraph wires could have done it," laughing incredulously.

"You may be sure that I should have flown to you if I had the power," return ed Miss Carrington, seriously, "Allie I was not in Switzerland, as you thought a I was recalled suddenly, a fortnight ago by Mr. Moore's sudden Bluess. Greville telegraphed for me, and I came home at

"Mr. Moore ill." exclaimed Alison. with a fast paling face.

"Yes, very IR, but, thank God, my dear ald friend is better now. It has been an time for us, darling, Greville so reproachfully. I would not write to you it would have given you useless pain, and I was so engroused with narsing that letters were impossible luxueles. Little did I think in my night watching that Allie was anvious and unhappy, too."

"Anne Di, that is why you look tired." "Thred! Nonsense, child. It is a blessed thing to wear out one's self for one's I love that sort of fatigue. sould not have left my patient until was out of danger, but now I can safely trust him in Greville's charge. He is a capital nurse, in spite of his boyishness. and he has Burton to help him. By the bye, Mr. Moore sent his love to Sunny Stay, I must try and remember his meshe bade his little sunbeam rememher her mission, and not to be afraid of cloudy days.

"Did Mr. Greville send me a message, too?" asked Affson, a little timidly. Miss

Carrington healtated. but I told him I could not be a carrier of he had kept his promise, and had been working famously.

L am so glad," returned Alleon. at this. "Annt Di it wa good of you to keep Mr. Moore's illm me; I should have liked to have shared your suxiety. Dear old man, am so thankful he is spared.

as though it were we who were blind, not he he seemed so steeped in the light of

"Do you think he wanted to die?" asked Alison, in an awestruck voice, "How strange it seems that he should be so wiiling to go."

has no terrors for him. Why should be fear the summons from the Master whom he loved and tried to serve here, and who died on the cross for his redemption? And yet he was resigned to stay, for Greville's nake. 'The lad wants me u little longer,' to said once. 'Well, I suppose I can spare my boy a year or two out of eternity; I mean to have no will of my own about it. When the Master calls I shall be ready, but perhaps—for who knows His graciousness? He may be thinking of my boy, too."

"How I should love to see him again !" exclaimed Alison with a sigh. "So you will by and by, I hope. He missed you dreadfully, Alison."

"And you, Aunt Di?"

"I am not going to tell you about that." Then, as Alison's eyes looked pleading. she continued earnestly; "Child, I believe we are a sort of necessity to each other -at least, I find my life will not shape itself properly without you. I am always thinking how Allie will like this or that, spoke her name, and the next moment Ali- Your absence quite took away the pleasare of my trip. You naughty child, you look delighted; but there comes my tea -please pour me a cup, and then tell me

Alison was soon narrating the story was more than elequent the quiver of of the last fortnight. Miss Carrington her voice meant ecstasy. But the next had received hers and Roger's letters late moment Miss Carrington put her at arm's the previous night, and Mr. Moore's had length, and, still holding her, scrutinized put her in possession of the latest news still there was much that she wished to "Allie, my poor, dear child, what have hear. She fistened attentively, and withthey done to you? Ob, dear, what thin out interruption, as the girl poured out cheeks, what heavy eyes!" And . sud | the history of her hopes and fears. Her donly closing her face between her hands, grave, interested face, and now and then she kined her again and again, and Miss a tightened grasp of Alison's hand, spoke Carrington was not a demonstrative wom- in note sympathy, but otherwise she said large natures can embrace a whole world probably amount to several times the

> "It has been a dreadful time," finished "Roger and I were so afraid of papa, and then Missie was so unhappy and ill. That is Hoger's whistle, Aunt Di-be is wondering what has become of Shall I call him in?" And Miss

Roger's look of intense surprise amused them excessively, but he welcomed his aunt with evident satisfaction.

"Now Allie will be all right again.

"No, not just now," returned Miss Carrington, quietly. "I am going to ston until you are tired of me, and then Allie and I must say good by to each other for tittle longer. What should you say to bringing her for a few weeks in the spring, if your father gets better? You look in want of a change, Roger; they are working you too hard, my boy.

"You must not tempt me, Aunt Diana he returned, rather gravely. "There will be no holiday for me next year. whole concern rests on my shoulders at present, and our manager is a defaulter. Alison shall go with you, and welcome,

"Well, well, we must me about winter comes before spring. There pleaty of time, and I don't mean to give up my plan of having you and Allie together. Now I must see your father will you take me to him?" And Roger reprented with alacrity.

In the passage she stopped and taid her hand upon his arm.

"Thank you for taking care of Allie know how good you have been to her "It is she who line been good to us." he much tains with her.

"Don't make me vain, Roger, Perhaps Aunt Diana loved to feel Miss Carrington shook her beat at him, and only hade him lead the way to his father's room. Alison had already

but of course you never got the letters

"No, indeed; Alison will tell you shout presently. It is too late for me to peolong my visit now. Invalide should be quiet at this hour. You see I under stand all about it, Ainstie; but I am griev

ed to the heart to see you like this. "You must not make yourself unbarney shout it: it is only a case of matienes and I have good, attentive children. wish their mother could see them; she was always so proud of them.

"Yes, indeed! Poor Florence, vot must miss her, Ainstie." And Miss Carrington's lip quivered slightly for her sister had been the object of her dearest affection; she had never felt so drawn Plorence's bushand as she did now: gras eyes cented upon him pitringle

"Children, you must take care of your aunt; she must be tired with her ney. To-morrow you must come and with me. Diana." Miss t'arrington felt herself gently dismissed, but she did not misonulerstand him, and, pressing his hand kindly, she followed the others from

CHAPTER XX

Missie received the news of Aunt Di ana's arrival with an exclamation of dis may, and a bot flush came to her face "Oh, Alison, it will be dreadful to see her! I always was afraid of her. know; she is one of those painfully people who make one feel small and hor-Please don't let her come in hight." And Missie sat bolt upright in and Yama, the gost of death. The name

Now. Miss Carrington had quick cars and she caught the most of this speech and laughed to herself softly; for it is those who try hard to be good who are the most conscious of evil within, and Miss Carrington was one who had often cried with St. Paul, "The good that would I do not." Her heart felt very soft toward the willful little girl who had brought such misery on herself and others, even before she entered the room, but "Well, I think he sent his love, too her first sight of Missie gave her a feelin fact, he sent a great many messages, ing of surprise. She said afterward she ceased to wonder at Ainslie's infatuation for the child, for she was certainly a be-

> witching little creature. The pink ribbons in Missie's dainty dressing gown were not pinker than her cheeks, her blue eyes shone with uneasy light, and the soft, fair hair lay in delicate rings above the pretty, childish face; her frightened, appealing look would have touched a colder heart than Miss Carrington's, and it was with real affection that she bent over her. But Missie's tender conscience made her shrink from

her aunt's kisses. "Please don't be so kind to me, Aunt every one is, and it is not right." stely, "it's a Mormon."-The Tatlet.

"My dear little girl, we none of want to see our poor little butterfly broken on the wheel; we are far too sorry for you. Of course, you have been a naughty child; you have been setting your small world on fire, and have got your pretty wings singed. Well, now you have learn-"Why not?" replied her aunt. "Death ed wisdom through painful experience. and we must all help you to get the les-

"I don't think any one was ever so wicked as I, Aunt Diana," sighed Missie. "Well, my dear," returned her aunt, briskly, "It is not my concern to go about weighing my neighbor's trespasses in a balance: I don't fancy human scales would be nicely adjusted; but I am quite sure of one thing that I was a very naughty child myself the red-cheeked apples I stole gave me moral indigestion

It was impossible to look grave over this; Alison's merry laugh was infectious. Miss Carrington stayed a few more minutes, questioning Missie about her arm, and talking kindly to her, until the poor child was quite happy and at her case.

"I don't know what it is," she said that night, when Alison gave her the good-night kiss; "you all seem trying to make me believe that I have not been naughty at all, and that there is nothing to forgive.

"I thought forgiveness meant that," returned Alison, simply; "you know how the Rible speaks of sins blotted outthat means the page is white again one can write freshly across the blank,"

There never was a merrier supper table than the one at The Holms that night late as it was, Poppie sat up for it, and no one rebuked her for her chatter. Rudel kept up the character of a bashful school boy; but even he relaxed his wide-eyed gravity when Otter was admired and kind inquiries made after Sulky. Aunt Diana of little ones, and such a one was Aunt

But as she talked and laughed with the others, her keen gray eyes followed Alson's every movement. It seemed to Miss Carrington that her darling was changed somehow some of the brightness that had always lighted her young face bad faded a little; she was graver and more

"Attie has taid aside her leading strings, and has learned to walk alone," she said to berself; "though she loves me as much as ever, she needs me less. I ought be glad to know this, for I can not expert to live forever."

(To be continued.)

AUTHOP AT 83.

Bettred Business Man of Worcester Mann. Writes There Dramas. Thomas C. Rice, a wealthy retired business until of Worcester, Mass. his eighty third year, sitting in the unlet of his home at 214 West street evolved three monderous thoughtful plays as the result of challenge from his wife, says a Wor center disputch to the New York Herald. Two of them are biblical plays and one is founded on a Hindoo le-

Since the retirement from active business life several years ago Mr. Rice has had a bent for literary work has been an opplivorous reader and among other things delved extensively into scriptural pages.

Mrs. Rice, who is a bright woman, quite conversant with the Rible and literary withal, was anxious to see if her husband could put together some thing out of the knowledge that be had gained that would some day shine before the feedlights. So she issued the defined Mr. Rice immediately backled on his armor and started in at the playwright logsituess.

"I don't know how I ever did it. mean. But something goaded me call now a brainstorm, but whatever it was, one thing is certain; I turned out plays with some satisfaction to myself, even if they never so prove to

"If nothing is ever done with the plays I shall never regret the knowedge I have gained from the deep study of the subjects involved.

the of the first stories Mr. Bles dramatized was that of Absolom, which he makes four acts and puts into the narrative some fourteen char acters, only one of whom is a woman

There is told the story of David's son, his determination to revenge his sister's wrongs, which brings him into disfavor, and later his attempts At his death, however, the fa ther discloses that all along be been his favorite child and his lament over the boy's body in the well remem a vehicle for an intense dramatic cli-

Mr. Rice perhaps makes still more pretentions his dramatic version of the Hebrew book of Esther, in which there

appear twelve leading characters. Mr. Rice has also constricted a play of quite a pretentions character found ed on a Hindoo Jegend.

This play is in three acts and con tains six characters the king of Ke karps, his daughter, the blind and bar ished king of thairs, his son, the sage of the play is "Savitri's Choice."

A Scattering Clientele. "Do you think people will take kind to your ideas of reform?"

"I don't know," answered Senator Sorghum. "One trouble about being reformer is that there are so mans different kinds of reform wanted the your audience is necessarily limited. -Washington Star.

Quite Out of Place. Timid - That boss of yours is so pompous he always makes me feel !!! at

Clark-Strange; I felt out of place when he was talking to me to-day. Timid-That so? Clark-Yes; he was telling me needn't come back after Saturday.

Her Hero. "Who's your ideal of bravery?" peried the old bachelor. Is it General Kuroki?

"No," answered the spinster desper-

FIGHTINGFOREST give his services in time of need."

The calendar year of 1908 will memorable as the most disastrous welve months in history in point of the destructiveness of forest fires in the Culted States. It is estimated that in ordinary years the average annual loss through forest fires in this country is not less than \$50,000,000, but, great as s this bayor under what might be termed normal conditions, it appears almost knew the way to a boy's heart; though insignificant by comparison with the she never had a boy of her own; but record-breaking waste of the present there are some anmarried women whose period, when the aggregate loss will muni Saturname. For a consid interval this autumn, when the forest fires have been at their beight. flames were doing damage to the

amount of \$1,000,000 a day. The principle cause of this epidemic of forest fires has been found, of course, in the drought which has been general throughout the country; but there have been other adverse conditions which agre contributed to the menacing situa tion. Indeed, as an expert on forestry recently pointed out, it has seemed as though every imaginable unfavorable condition has been present this year to bely along the deadly and destructive work. Deadly-because, in addition to the loss of property, there has been as appalling loss of life in connection with this year's fires.

Even in an ordinary year it is estimated that not less than sixty five lives are included in the toll exacted by for est fires during the twelve months, and this year in the case of the human cac rifter, as with the loss of "mater's things, the average has been greatly exceeded. Moreover, there will be a quel to this year's fires that will not appear in connection with any of the statistics of loss at first hand from for est fires. As readers of the newspays re have had good cause to realize, the firethis year have not been conflued, as in often the case, largely to the dense's whoded and sparsely populated tricts, laying waste towns of consider able size and driving great numbers of people from their homes. As a result of the suffering and exposure thus en talled there will probably be much in validism and many deaths that, being immediately attributable to forest fires, will not be included in the statistics that will constitute the chronicle of this year's fire record.

Climatic Conditions Infavorable. Another unusual feature of the for range of territory visited by the flames out the State of Pennsylvania; in Mich other territory adjacent to the tires; lakes the forest fires raged simultane ously, and even up the Pacific Coast the menace has been present, threatening among other things the destruction of one of the finest groves of the prized big trees. Moreover, the forest firethis year have been unusually difficult to compler, and in many instances the owners of magnificent private forests or lunting preserves provided with best private fire-fighting systems har found themselves unable to cope with the capidly traveling flames and have been obliged to appeal to near by min-

tileitalitles for ald. The season's unparalleled record has given the country an unpleasant object esson as to what may happen any year and has aroused everybody concerned to a realization of the need of some better system of fighting and preventing this immense yearly loss. Not only have private individuals and corporations owning timber lands been stirred to action by the spectacle of the most tide campaign that it is believed will point a way to prevent many forest fires and to control those that, despite precentions, gain a start

employes of its forest service. Mr. Raymond W. Pullman, traveling over the burned areas in the Northwest and elsewhere, and not only gathering detailed statistics that will be of value in arging also taking notes as to the physical characteristics of the fires and all detalls that might lead to a better understanding of this destructive element

and the best means to circumvent it. At the same time the national authorities have detailed an expert on forestry, Mr. Paul 6. Redington, to make an investigation of the whole provement of conditions in the future, cambric handkerchief with rich lace In speaking of the line of action to be was the outcome. If the empress wishtaken by the government in entisting ed to laugh or had to open her mouth co-operation for the common cause Forester Redington said recently: "What is wanted is an organized offort on the part of the government, the states, corporations and individugls. There should be adequate fire shipwreck or some other cause. She laws in every State where any forests are located. These laws should provide for the appointment of fire war-

It is realized that the railroads through their spark-emitting locomotives constitute one of the chief sources of forest fires and consequently one of the first moves which has been made by Uncle Sam in the present undertaking was to invite the railroads to make common cause with the federal government against forest fire menace. There have been prepared articles of agreement for a co-operative working arrangement between the government and those railroads whose lines traverse the national forests in the West, and this is believed to be but a beginning of a better understanding between some of the parties most concerned. Without the unselfish aid of corporations the United States government will have uphill work in its crosside against the forest

When it comes down to systematic methods of fighting forest tires, the subject does not, happily, present wholly unexplored field. For some years past the United States government has been rapidly developing an efficient patrol and fire-fighting system on its own forests, and, inasmuch as Uncle Sam now controls about one fourth of the forest area in the United States, it can be seen that the na tional authorities have had an excellent practice ground on which to try out their theories on a large scale The realization brought by the forest tires of 1308 of the crying need for organized effort in fighting forest fires throughout the entire country, comes just at a time when the government has its own system practically perfect ed, and there is no doubt that this will be used as a mostel that will be opled by State and county authorities, corporations and private individnals, who are owners of extensive tim-

her lands. Under the forest patrol system main tained by the United States government on its own land a ranger or guard travely on foot or on horselack over the district of which he has charge at regular intervals and keeps a careful lookout for any tires that may have started since his preceding patrol. This nomadic fire warden unker especially frequent trips along the wagon roads, trails or other fre mented routes of travel through the forcet and not only keeps his eyes open for incipient fires, but cautions all per sons who may be traveling through the forest to be sure that any fires that they may light are fully extinguished before the camp ground is abandoned The arteries of travel through the

forest are also extensively posted or placarded with printed notices warn ing hunters, compers and the traveling public in general against the dangers of starting fires except when absolute is proposary, or abandoning a camp site while the embers of the camp fire are still aglow. Not only do the forat causers or government patrolmen. sice their "beats" through the forest. out every now and then each of these mards climbs to communicing elevalong or lookout points within his dis trict to survey the whole situation. himself, if he is able, or, if the flames are too formidable for his mulded of fort, he summens the assistance of other rangers. A complete system of telephonic communication throughout Uncle Sam's forests enables the ralls ng of a good-stred fire fighting force at short notice. Finally, these vers loss rangers follow railroad trains If their districts be traversed by the steel tracked highways guish the innumerable small fires that constantly originate from locomotive sparks St. Louis Clobe Democrat

ELEVATED HANDSHAKE.

How the Fushion Originated-Empress Josephine's Handkerrhief. It appears that some of the present day fashlons owe their origin to physical defects, says the London Globe. The elevated handshake is one of these, and a Paris contemporary throws an inter exting light mann its origin. It appears some such inconvenient and painfu growth on his shoulder. Whenever friend gave him a handshake the oper ation as far as the prince was concern ed was most painful. To prevent this he raised his hand horizontally to his pression, had "the whip hand,

The new method of handshake was the astonishment and admiration of for the latest in society, who thought that the prince had inaugurated a new fashion which one sees daily in operation in the Strand

The dainty lace handkerchief which ladies use owes its origin also to the defects of nature. The unnappy Empress Josephine introduced the fashion. She suffered from had teeth, and living in the time when American dentistry widely the handkerchief was requisi-

Again, rellow lace has its origin in sadness, according to tradition. A lady of distinction had lost her Husband by was impressed with the idea that he would return and vowed to continue wearing until he was restored to her dens, who should have authority and the lace which adorned her dress when the power to enforce such, and to call she said farewell. Like Josephine's upon the services of citizens in fight- | handkerchief, her intimates thought her ing forest fires which occur. The law soiled lace was an innovation in fashshould provide a pensity to be im- ton and edonted means to copy it.

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