

"Come on, now, good people! This way to the Fair!" They're fresh and they're juicy, they're ripe and they're rare!

AN AMERICAN GIRL.

CHAPTER VIII.

SHARES LOOKING UP.

There were others who echoed her ladyship's words afterward, though they echoed them privately and with more caution than my lady felt necessary. It is certain that Miss Octavia Bassett did not improve, as time progressed, and she had enlarged opportunities for studying the noble example set before her by Slowbridge.

"A message by Atlantic cable?" she had gasped. "Don't—don't read it, my love. Let some one else do that. Poor—poor child!"

"Thank heaven!" sighed Miss Belinda. "Thank heaven!" "Why?" said Octavia. "Ah, my dear, if you know how terrified I was; I felt sure that something had happened.

"It is a message from father," said Octavia. "Nothing is the matter. He's all right. He got in on Sunday."

"What do they do in places?" asked Octavia. "Half past 5 is pretty early."

heard Miss Belinda mention any masculine name, so far, but that of the curate of St. James', and when she had seen him pass the house, she had not found his slim black figure and faint ecclesiastical whiskers especially interesting.

"It must be confessed that Miss Belinda suffered many annoyances in looking forward to a young kinswoman's first appearance in society. A tea at Lady Theobald's house constituted formal presentation to the Slowbridge world.

"The first was made for Miss Lucia Gaskell, who Lady Theobald, mildly, replied Miss Belinda, "And there were no young ladies in Slowbridge who would not desire to emulate her example."

"Oh," said Octavia, "I dare say she is very nice, and all that, but I don't believe I should draw the line there."

"I would prefer, my dear," said more than one discreet matron to her daughter, "to have a girl who would remain near me during the earlier part of the evening—before we know how this young lady may turn out. Let your manner toward her be kind, but not familiar. It is well to be on the safe side."

"It must be admitted, however, that by this time, notwithstanding various speculations, the recognition of Miss Belinda had begun to discover in her young guest divers good qualities which appealed to her affectionate and susceptible old heart.

"As the good little spinster was arranging herself to take her departure, she laid upon the bed the greater portion of her modest splendor, she went to her wardrobe, and took therefrom the sacred band-box containing her best cap. All the ladies of Slowbridge wore caps, and all being of Slowbridge, without any reference to age, size, complexion or demeanor, the best was sometimes a little trying. Lady Theobald's head-dresses were of a severe and bristling order. The lace which they were composed was induced by some agonizing process to form itself into aggressive quills, the bones lined with buckram, the strings neither fluffed nor flattered.

EGYPTIAN CHICKENS.

How They Are Hatched by Millions in Rude Incubators.

The Egyptian chickens are smaller than the American variety and the eggs are only about half as large as those laid by the speckled hen on Uncle Sam's farm.

"I am not at all sure that she would become a mother," said Octavia. "Just at that moment there came a tap at the door, which she knew was from Octavia."

"Don't you know what it is?" she said. "It isn't like a Slowbridge cap; but it's a cap, nevertheless. They wear them like this in New York. And I think they are ever so much prettier."

"My love," she faltered, "it is so beautiful and expensive, that—though indeed I don't know how to thank you—I am afraid I should not dare to wear it."

"What about the distribution of wealth? Fortunes such as the world never saw since the days when 'great estates ruined Italy' are growing up in the American Republic."

"I am glad to hear that. It isn't too nice for me to have such a salary that he and his family are getting on."

"The exposure of Graham's and of Brodie's fraudulent performances at Niagara Falls has had the unexpected effect of throwing the light of publicity upon a little syndicate of newspaper reporters in Buffalo, the members of which have been engaged in the scheme of impostors of the Brodie and Graham stripe."

"The world has outrun the courts and legal technicalities have outlived their usefulness. The progress of the people has forced toward common sense methods in all things, and the lawyer's 'whereas,' 'aforesaid,' and 'parties of the first part' must be relegated to oblivion."

"I am sure she has a good heart," Miss Belinda said to herself, as the days went by. "She is like Martin in that. I dare say she is very ignorant and silly. I often see her face that she is unable to understand my feeling about things; but she never seems to laugh at me, nor think of me unkindly. And she is very, very pretty, though, perhaps, I ought not to think of that at all."

ROMAN GIRL AND DOLL.

Touching Scene Brought to Light in the Ancient Italian City.

In May last the workmen who were digging the foundation for the new law courts in Rome discovered a sarcophagus buried thirty feet below the surface.

"Kissing on the Platform." "Bohemian" writes in the St. Thomas Journal: The railway stations are the great kissing marts of the world.

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CURRENT TOPICS.

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The motto of the British Volunteers is "Defence, not defiance." They are sought for home protection and cannot be sent abroad. The War Office has just elaborated a scheme of defence and now every volunteer knows exactly where he is to be placed in a time of invasion, what is required of him as to arms, accoutrements, and destination.

Ontario does not lack lawyers. Some of them are inclined to think there are too many of them, but we cannot sympathize with the measures that are spoken of to reduce the supply.

Thousands of women are silently suffering untold misery, simply because they shrink from consulting a physician in those atrocious complaints arising from functional derangement of the system.

It is not easy to obtain the pure article, even although the highest prices be paid. The substance commonly used in adulteration are chicory, roasted grains, peas or beans.

It is useful in coloring the decoction, but adds nothing to its virtues. As for the other substances, although they may be harmless, considering their use from an economic point of view, nothing is so equally the case.

It is not rich, it is not poverty, it is human nature that is the trouble. The world is like a looking-glass. Laugh at it and it laughs back; frown at it and it frowns back.

"I see," said Smith, laying down his paper, "that old man Skinfint has willed his property to Groggins, the saloon-keeper."

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IRELAND IN PARIS.

Magnificent Specimens of Art in Textiles.

One of the most delicate exhibitors of long-kniled handiwork, at the present French exhibition, is from the linen looms of Ireland, in the form of damask napkins and a set of twelve dozen tablecloths, made for a jubilee gift to Queen Victoria by a Belfast manufacturer.

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DUNN'S BAKING POWDER THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND