INMATE OF

A THRILLING STORY OF OLD ENGLAND.

CHAPTER VII.

"I want to have a peep at old Estcourt, Cousin Clara, before I leave," said Bertie; "can't you drive over some day ?-it is not so very far."

"Fifteen miles," said I, "and back again; and do you think I could take a dangerous fellow like you among so many girls?"

"Dangerous! I am their brother," said "We're all in the same boat, and have a right to be friends. Here's to-day as bright as June, and nothing particular to do with it-let us all go !"

"With the greatest of pleasure. I should like above all things to go over to Estcourt told they are quite admirable," said Mrs. Robert Crofton.

"And no one is admitted! It will be quite a privilege," cried Mrs. Crofton of simple fare." Stoke.

"May I be of the party, aunt?" said Lucy, quietly-so quietly, as if this gentle at my pleasure, that it would have been barbarous to say no. I gave in at last against my will. We set out, the whole party of us, except the elder gentlemen, the three Mr. Croftons, who had no partic- sister-in-law. ular mind to follow their wives over the country on such an errand. Heary and the children filled two carriages, while Mary Crofton of Stoke, who was the least thing of a hoyden, proposed riding with them.

"And I can mount you, Lucy," said Derwent; " are you up to fifteen miles? Rather a long stretch for a lady. I expect you'll both give in long before you reach Estcourt,"

" Does Lucy ride?" asked I, in suprise. "The best horseman I know," said Derwent, laughing while she with the rest went to get ready. I was suprised-perhaps | Harry and Mary, Frank and Edward, who something more than surprised-for all Lucy's attainments came upon me unexpectedly. Modesty perhaps, and humbleness of mind, a desire not to boast; but it was somewhat annoying to find out the gift of one's inmate and companion so suddenly. Virtue so superior and out of the way somehow never gets the appreciation which it is supposed to deserve.

Alice, the other Mary Crofton, and the little Fortescues were in the other carriage. Alice was no horsewoman, and I saw with a momentary regret the young people cantering before us, Bertie keeping close by Lucy's rein. That, of course, was a mere accident; but still I should have prefered that Alice had been there. Lucy seemed to manage her horse with as much quietness, and ease, and propriety as she did everything else, not exuberant like the of her! I thought I should have had to be head was running on herown future grand-Stoke Mary, who was wild with simple spirits and girlish gayety. But then I was vexed and put out by discovering again, nothing about Lucy, and that she did not choose to bestow any of her confidence on me. I could not help thinking over it as we drove along. Was it my fault? Yet why should she have hesitated to tell me that she rode and liked riding? To be sure she did not hesitate, she only said nothing about it. It was her way.

It was past noon when we reached Estcourt. There was no lessons going on then. The teachers had gone home, and half of the children, the other half, in that holiday time were doing their own pleasure. This pleasure consisted in some secret and mysterious work, about which I, dropping in by the party were all down-stairs, discussing hope my dear little girl has had her share chance and alone to my old morning-room, their plans for the day; but the two sisters of the lesson, and will not require any found them clustering their heads as busy had contrived to steal away immediately more." as possible. They were rather disturbed at after breakfast. Alice was seated on the my sudden entrance, and plunged the work ottoman at the foot of the bed, while Clara her; but paused when she had taken a into a mighty work-table of Miss Austin's, half knelt, half sat on the floor before her, step or two towards the table. one and all exclaiming in dismay, "If Alice leaning on her sister's knee. Alice was the ed to me after I had taken an oath of strict gazing up to her with wistful wonder and silence. It was a wedding present for distress. They both started and looked a Clara-a magnificent table-cover worked in little confused as I entered. twelve squares, one by every girl in Estcourt-a mystery which the sisterhood were bound under grievous penalties not to divulge till the completion of the work. "But be done to-day?" Mrs. Crofton will not tell?" said the least of the little embroiderers, looking doubtfully in my face. I sepeated my vow with Mrs. Crofton," said Alice. "Nobody will the greatest seriousness. "And oh, please, ever miss us: we will stay here." don't let Alice come here!" cried another. I could not promise that, but remained till miss you?" said I, "Am I nobody, and Mr. ocked up; then surely, the secret was Alice cross to-day, Clara, tell me?"

After this little adventure I returned to | with some spirit; "but, oh, please speak to people waited for luncheon with agreeable day." impatience. The two Mrs. Croftons and the two Miss Croftons looked about them with considerable amazement, especially the elder ladies, and Lucy cast quiet in- ful dignity; "only I have been thinking, vestigating looks at the door. But there if you please, Mrs. Crofton, I think I ought was only plain, homely, iron-gray Miss to go out as a governess." Austin who was now so confirmed and established in her authority as to be half re- Clara, with a sudden burst of tears; "she sentful of the intrusion of visitors upon her has been going on so all the morning, and

"But this is not the establishment; we godmamma!"

my namesake of Stoke. angements here."

"Yes, my dear," said Mrs. Robert; "but the institution-the asylum-"

orphans, aunt," explained Lucy.

hind Miss Austin's chair; and Bertie, genly calling her attention to it.

"Look here, Alice," cried Bertie, "here' clear." a mark of old times : here's where you scribbled in the days of your youth, and valuable autograph lying about anywhere ceeded again. -for shame !'

saucy boy?" said I. "Leave the memorial governess, please!" where it is; I like to see it. Come, luncheon | "Let us go into it quietly," said I, showand see your arrangements, Clare. I am is ready. The children are somewhere ing no sympathy for the suiden break-down about ; it is holiday time, and there is noth- which accompanied this exclamation. "Is ing to do. But as we are going to share it because mamma has told you she has very their roast mutton, we shall see them at little, or because you have seen the other table. Come; but I am afraid there is only ones suffering from your presence, that you

With amazed faces, my visitors followed | Alice?"

to the dining-room. "I don't understand it at all," said Mrs. let me think myself a burden," said Alice, Robert Crofton to Mrs. Crofton of Stoke, in | with indignation. girl had no will of her own, but lived only an audible whisper, which I could not help overhearing. "The arrangements here are said I. those of a gentleman's house; where are the children kept, do you suppose?"

The other lady shook her head; she was as much in the dark as my respectable were at Estcourt, about the girls."

though shy, were as frank in their speech, think that my orphans were so well off now, I know." and in virtuous indignation was quite ready might have been educated and clothed in blue frocks and white tippets for the sum | what your duty is?" which supported in this luxury my unjustly for so much, and given to the poor. I could read that ancient sentiment in my sister-in-law's face; but I fear she was thinking, not of the poor, but of her own here, and said how kind Mrs. Crofton was, till the child was stricken mute with amazeto her, that there was anything so very remarkable in her lot. Atallthis Alice Harley ceased to speak to any of our party, and sat by herself among the little girls, with my Alice the housemaid at home. a certain air of pride and resentment which I never remember to have seen on her tace at me with pale faces and dilated eyes. before. And Bertie was not now by her quietly informing Mrs. Crofton of Stoke that she was an orphan, and "no better" than these children, and once thought she should have been very glad to be admitted

all for governesses," said Lucy: "So good

a governess too.' It was an odd scene in its way, and not a very pleasant one, though 1 am very sure there was nothing in the roast mutton and for the fifth or sixth time, that I knew rice pudding, which my honest Bertie demolished to such alarming extent, to make anybody envious. Yet I found the two Mrs. Croftons quite without interest in the picture gallery and the chamber of state. Lucy desired to be left behind to make ac. serves her own table. Serving one's own, quaintance with the little girls whom she was so eager to show herself on an equality with; but of ail the other incidents of that visit, I was most concerned by the sudden cloud which covered Alice Harley's face,

CHAPTER VIII.

Clara and Alice together in very close con- for a punishment. When I take to preach, versation in their own room. The rest of I shall take that and harp upon it; but I should see it!" Then the secret was confid- speaker, and Clara's earnest little face was

"Why are you here, children?" said I. "Have you no opinions or inclinations to add to the general council as to what is to

"Oh, please, we would rather not go down : we would rather not go anywhere,

"And how do you know nobody will Miss Austin's work-table was carefully Crofton, and Bertie, and the children? Is my neck and my waist. My heart warmed.

the drawing-room, where Miss Austin had her; she says such dreadful things. She dry tree. re eived the party, and where the young has been so low and dull ever since yester-

"Low and dull? I do not understand that. Has any one vexed you Alice ?" "No," said Alice, with a certain youth-

"Oh, godmamma, listen to her !" cried

see none of Mrs. Crofton's arrangements "A governess!" said I; "indeed I do sible. Then I could say to Mrs. here," said, in a tone of disappointment, not please, Alice. What does the child Robert, "Do not say anything about an

"Indeed, I do not think I promised to "Ah, we are not children now," said ornhan asylum, and the little Harleys are anow you any," said I. "I brought you to Alice, pathetically. "When we were child. more highly connected than I am." But I see Estcourt, which is a very cosy old ren it did not matter. We had no experihouse, and has a little picture gallery and ence, we did not understand anything ; but chamber of state, which strangers often now !" and Alice ended with a profound how obligingly she would consent, and ask to see; for otherwise we have no ar- sigh, and shook her head sorrowfully, as what care sho would take to "save the two statues, one ninety, the other twenty though all the troubles of existence were | feelings" of Aunt Clara's young friends. But | feet high, each hewn from a single stone.

hanging heavy upon that pretty white it was just this, I fear, which provoked me

brow. scarcely help laughing. "Do, you know, cerned. However, Lucy was fully occupied that one is always the better for telling one's at present with her relations, the other INTERESTING ITEMS ABOUT OUR troubles?" said I. "Come, open your hearts | Croftous, amongst all of whom she wasvery and let me know what they are."

after a little pause, "I ought to go out as | to see her unselfishness, her consideration "Mrs. Crofton means the rooms for the agoverness; I know I ought. Clara is go- for others, Mrs. Crofton of Stoke assured ing to be married, and to be rich, and I me that very night, and how she watched By this time Alice, blushing, yet looking hope she will be very, very happy; but I my every movement, and tried to anticipate somewhat indignant, had withdrawn be- have read in books how gentlemen feel to my wishes. I said "Yes," and I dare say their wives' families, and I will not go with | my excellent kinswoman thought me very erously troubled and uneasy for her, follow- her to fret her husband; so Clara has no ungrateful. ed her there with a book in his hand, fond- cause to be angry, nor grieved either, and However the conclusion of my thoughts that is one part of it quite settled and about Alice and Clara was twofold. First,

Bertie's speech restored my good humor. for the rest at home. I could not go to girls. "Do you call Escourt anywhere, you make them poorer. I will go and be a

have come to this sudden resolution,

"Mamma would do anything rather then

"It was some of the little ones, then,"

"Oh, godmamma!" cried Clara, "you do not think so; you know better. It was what some one said yesterday, when you

"And I don't mean to be ungrateful," "If this is charity, I only wish my chil- cried poor Alice through her tears; "but dren were as well off," continued Mrs. if mamma was too poor to bring us up at Robert, who was a lawyers wife, and lived, home, I ought to work for her, and help her Bertie were to ride. We elder ladies and in Russell Square, and they did not at all now. I know it is all true. I should never know how to treat the six little girls, who, have learned anything but for your kindness. I have no right to be proud, and say so far as I was concerned, as though they they were cruel to tell me so. I did not had been Croftons. Mrs. Robert looked know indeed we were all brought up for "the boys," as she was pleased to call round the room, and held up her hands in governesses; but I must not be dependent on telegraphic horror. She was shocked to mamma, who is poor. I must do my duty

"I trust you will," said I; "but do you to suggest that scores of poor children think, Alice, Mrs. Robert Crofton is a much better judge than I am, and than mamma,

"Oh, it was not Mrs. Robert Crofton; it favored twelve. It might have been sold was every one," said Alice, turning away

"Alice is naughty, Clara," said I, "and ill-tempered. She is punishing you and me for other people's faults; never mind! We are good, and don't deserve it. Now listen had no such gardens as those of Estcourt | to me, you foolish little girl. Young ladies to luxuriate in. As for Lucy, she began to in novels go out as governesses when there enter into conversation with the little girl is no necessity for it, to show that they are next her, and asked how she liked to be high-minded, and of an independent spirit, and to exhibit the cruelty of all those unfortunate people who employ governesses; ment, not knowing, till it was suggested but I had much rather my Alice did not do that. I had rather-now don't look astonished; you are a gentlewoman; you can't looked on with a thoughtful face; she had help being a gentlewoman, whatever you may do. I had rather, for my own part, see

"The housemaid!" They both looked "To be sure, the housemaid! Don't side to speak of old times, and she could you think it would be delightful to be able hear at the other side of the table Lucy to do everything all with your own hands and head and nobody helping you, for mamma and the children at home ?"

At which saying Alice suddenly got up and kissed me, and a bright blush of surprise and pleasure, shame and satisfaction, "Where, I suppose, aunt qualifies them flew over her face. She perceived what I meant, but so did not Clara, whose little eur, and who repeated that terrible name

of housemaid with dismay. a little speech for the occasion (which was an indulgence, however, which I rarely permitted myself.) "I don't agree with the working-women idea very much. office when she sweeps her own hearth and even in menial offices, is a privilege, and does not lower in all ranks. I think they are happy who can do it; but everthing that is not necessary is unbecoming. Your mamma's income is a certain one, if it is not very large, and you can do your duty a great deal better by remaining at home. Look me up that text which speaks of The morning after this expedition, I found | voluntary humility and will worship, Alice

Alice rose with a blush to do as I told

"Did mamma ask you to take us, Mrs. Crofton?" she said, with a little timidity. "I remember long ago something Lady Greenfield said about an orphan asylum, and it all came back again yesterday. Did mamma ask you take us ?"

"No," said I; "I took you because I wanted something which you had to give.' "And what was that? Oh, what was that? Tell us," they cried both together

with the greatest eagerness. "I was very solitary then," said I; "it

was love !" In a moment they were both clinging round me, twining their soft arms about I felt the dull pain that was always there "Alice is never cross, said my godchild, eased and relieved with a sudden sensation of happiness. I had children; I was not a

> "I think I got a little of it," said I, "and comforted myself. So now, children, when Mrs. Robert Croften, or anybody else, says anything stupid about Estcourt, tell them they do not know."

I left after awhile looking even brighter than usual, and with all the cloud blown over; but still I was uneasy about the children. It was not Mrs. Robert; it was every one. They were tender little hearts, and they were at the most sensitive age. I were all to be so happy. Speak to her, sent them away from Hilfont, to be out of trouble; but that was imposorphan saylum, please; Estcourt is not an could not condescend so far as to make any such request to Lucy. I know by instinct

in anticipation, and made me perfectly I was sorry for the poor child, yet I could silent on the subject as far as she was conpopular, and who one and all congratulat-"Mrs. Crofton," said Alice, solemnly, ed me on possessing her. It was delightful

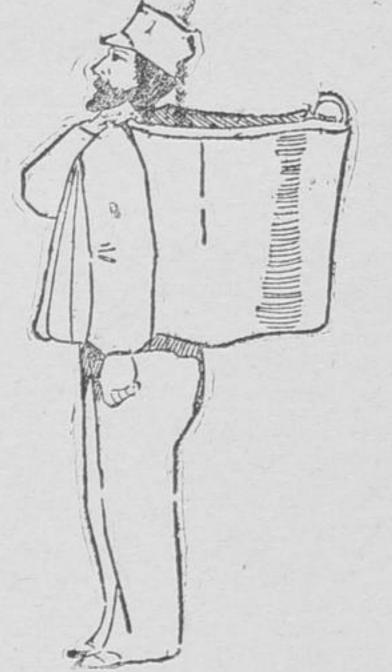
that they must hear something of the kind "Very well; now for the other," said I. sooner or later, and had better get it over holiday. I rather think Alice was half offended now; and second, that Mr. Sedgewick was Bertie, with a laugh and a blush, and a spoiled the title page, and caught a blow- that I received her "settled and clear" so coming to-morrow; Derwent had invited look of ingenious gratitude and thanks, ing up. Look here! and your name written quietly, and consented to it with so much him to join our Christmas party. I was a in my own admirable hand-writing as it readiness. She looked as if she would like little curious to see how he behaved to his was in those days; yet you leave such a to cry, but after another little pause pro- little fiance, and felt that his arrival would at least effect a diversion in any "And, then, mamma has not very much little schemes of annoyance toward my two ing repaired.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

COAL IN BAGS.

Cleanly and Convenient Way of Deliver ing Fuel.

In the European countries the custom of delivering coal in bags is universal. These are filled at the yard—so many to the ton -and these are carried on the back of the



DELIVERING THE COAL.

driver, or his assistant, to their place in the house, where they are emptied, a cleanly and simple operation, that offers no ob. about 200 untagged dogs yet roam the struction to traffic, and that should commend itself to every one as the only sensible plan of doing the job.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

A Great Plague Raging in China-Identical With the London Plague of the Seventeenth Century.

Reports that have thus far this year reached us regarding the existence of contagious diseases have not been startling employees. although in several places a diminutive epidemic has been announced. Chicago cials, prospectors and capitalists from all has had several hundred cases of smallpox; Brooklyn had 778 cases of measles in May and 106 in the first four days of the present month; and cholera is said to have broken "Yes, my dear child," said I, delivering out in the sacred city of Mecca, in St. Nazaire on the western coast of France in several districts in Russia and Prussia, and in Lisbon. These outbreaks, however, have not don't think any lady does an unbecoming been alarming but from China comes a story that is. In Hong Kong, Canton and other cities a great plague has been raging since March. The scourge carries off whole familes during a night and the terrified Chinese, who are the principal victims, spend their time in parading the streets, night and day, praying to their Josses. The mortality is said to be fearful, reaching eighty per cent. in some localities, and the disease is spreading despite the efforts of the authorities to check its growth. Attending physicians say it is almost identical with the great London plague of the seventeenth century, and is traceable to the filthy habits of the Chinese, and the wretchedly inadequate system of drainage. There is little or no reason for Christendom to fear a visitation of such a kind.

PREFERRED WHITE MEAT.

A Lion Disregards a Kaffir and Takes an Englishman.

daytime," said a well-seasoned African hunter, "when the sun has set and darkness comes on they become bold and fearless, and often when urged by hunger reckless and daring. It is by no means unusual for oxen to be seized at the yoke or horses to be killed inside a stable, or when tied to the wheel of a wagon; while in Mashonaland alone four men were carried off and eaten by lions during the first two years of the occupation of that country. One of these unfortunates was a young man who was about to start a market garden in the neighborhood of Umtali settlement. He reporter to record the evidence and judghad gone away with a cart and four oxen | ments in important cases. to buy some native meal at one of the Kaffir a spot about six miles distant from the injuries sustained in a switching accident little township. The oxen were tied up to on that road some four years ago. the yokes, and Mr. Teale was lying asleep under the cart, alongside of a native, when a lion walked up and seizing him by the quiet. Nothing to be seen! The astonish- just when this has happened to me, and we should have been very glad to have shoulder carried him off and killed and ate him. This lion, be it noted, showed a refined taste in disregarding the Kaffir and seizing the European."

> Manitoba protests against the influx of undesirable immigrants.

The city of Banian, in Great Bucharia, is astonished him by exclaiming: cut in the side of a mountain. There are 12,000 artificial caves some very large, and

OWN COUNTRY.

Gathered from Various Points from the

Atlantic to the Pacific. Dugald, Manitoba, wants a doctor.

West Selkirk is to have a bicycle club.

Aug. 15th will be Kingston's Civic holi-Stratford's rate of taxation may be 22

August 6th is the date for Guelph's civic

The Lutheran Synod will meet next year

in Elmira. The Kalmar station on the C.P.R. has

been burned. The Methodist church of Princeton is be-

A cheese factory is to be established on

Simcoe Island.

Diphtheria is prevalent in some parts of

New Brunswick. Chairman Skene, of the Galt Public

School Board, has resigned. Rev. James Ballantyne, London, Ont., has moved to Ottawa.

A lodge of the [Knights of Pythias is be-

ing formed at Rat Portage. Mrs. Hannah Sparr, one of Stratford's

oldest residents, is dead. Two artillery men have deserted from

"A" battery Kingston. The Hudson Pay Company's store at Rat

Portage is to be enlarged.

It is reported that a barge line will run from Owen Sound to Duluth.

A lodge of I. O. F. is to be established at Massey Station, Manitoulin.

Canada has now 8,477 post offices, an increase of 189 since last year. Patrick O'Grady, a very old resident of

Paris, is dead at the age of 70. Dundas is opposed to converting the H.

& D. Railway into a trolley line. Rev. Mr. Prosser, Baptist, has moved from Leamington to Ridgetown.

Andrew A. Wylie, customs appraiser, died at Hamilton at the age of 68. A four-foot live snake is on exhibition in

a Dundas street window, London. A large party of Scandinavian immigrants will go into the Edmonton district.

Sweet potatoes are being grown this season on Cedar Island, Chippewa Bay. Canada has thirty-eight divisions of the

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. A new school building is to be erected at Fort William, the cost of which will be

\$18,900. London has issued 1,111 dog tags and

The county of Wentworth has a net balance on hand of \$12,528.23 over all liabilities. The Baptist Convention for Manitoba and

the North-West will convene at Winnipeg July 9th. The corner-stone of St. Paul's Evangeli-

cal Lutheran church in Ellice township has just been laid. The Hobbs Hardware Company of Lon-

don pays \$1,000 every week in wages to its Rat Portage is swarming with commer-

points of the compass. A consignment of orchids and amarvllis

from British India has just been received at St. Thomas. Col. C. S. Jones and Major T. Harry Jones, of the Dufferin Rifles of Brantford,

have resigned. Joseph D. Johnston, of Lower Fort Garry, died recently. He was formerly of Montreal and London.

Peter Barnett, a retired tarmer living near Fergus, attempted suicide by cutting his throat with a razor.

The Beckett Mountain Park Company, (Limited,) with a capital stock of \$40,000, has been incorporated.

Custom receipts in Halifax last month were \$71,667.36, a decrease of \$2,703.23 compared with May, 1893.

Miss A. Laven, of the Welland High School has been appointed entrance examiner by the Separate School Board. The St. John, N. B., Board of Trade has

decided to send a delegation to Ottawa to oppose the fast Atlantic subsidy. The Maritime Grand Council of the Royal

Templars of Temperance will be held on July 9, 10 and 11 at Woodstock, N. B. A company of rich Winnipeg gentlemen

will develop the new found coal beds at Buffalo Point, Lake of the Woods. The cotton factory at Moneton, N.B., re-

sumed operations, the workmen having ac-"Though lions are timid enough in the cepted a cut of 10 per cent. in their wages. The London Y. M.C. A. will put its new building on the old Durand property. The

Free Library Board will have one corner of the lot. A four hundred and fifty pound bear, slain the other day in Antigonish county,

N.S., had killed twenty-five sheep of different farmers. At a recent meeting of the Watford and Zion Congregational churches it was decided to extend a call to the Rev. Mr. Madill, of

Judges and lawyers in Kent County are agitating the appointment of a shorthand

Mr. Ephraim Lumley, of Ridgetown, is kraals, and had outspanned for the night at | suing the Wabash Railway for \$20,000, for

Large Fee.

It is always refreshing to learn of lawyers who will not undertake an unjust cause. Of judge Ira Perley his biographer says: He believed in the justice of his client's cause; he would not enlist in it otherwise. At one time a sharper tried to retain him, and was smoothing over his crooked conduct, as well as he knew how, when the judge

"I think you have acted like an infernal

scoundrei, sir !" "Is there any charge for that opinion ?"

"Yes, sir; five dollars "