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comment of Alice when she read the

letter. "The young gentleman has bravely set to work to become a man instead of a cipher. My brother likes

him; he whistles 'Ben Bolt;' my brother is to bring him up here again; I am

expected to fall in love with Mr. Ci-

pher that was and help him spend his money, and I am to be barely toler-ated by mamma and both sisters! A

most charming plot, surely, but it takes two to make a bargain. I think I know just the sort of people mamma

and sisters are. He told me she read him a lecture every time he danced

twice with a poor girl, and now I am expected to walk into the same trap and cringe to her ladyship for the sin

of being poor. I guess not! I'll teach school till I die first, and he can think

school till I die iffst, and he can think of me as having a 'slab of granite so gray' to keep me in place."

But this diplomatic "Sweet Alice" wrote to her brother: "I am delighted that you are coming up, for I am so

lonesome, and the weeks drag so hard!

Bring your friend up, by all means,

and I'll sing 'Ben Bolt' till he hates the name of Sweet Alice. The country

will be looking fine then, and he can

go over to the cemetery and select the

corner I am to occupy. Pardon the joke, and don't tell him I uttered it."

To Frank she wrote: "Be sure to

come up with Bert. I will sing all the

old songs and the new ones you have sent me as well. If you come up on a Thursday you may visit my school

Friday afternoon, and then you can see the girl you sent the candy to. She

wears a calico pinafore and comes to

Alice's tactful reply to her brother's

letter, coupled with his own sincere affection for her, brought her a re-

sponse by return mail in the form of a

check for \$100, with explicit orders to

CHAPTER XVII.

bunch of tiger lilies waved in the

breeze when one Friday afternoon the teacher at the north district school

The class in reading, then in evi-

dence, were halted in their singsong of concert utterance, and Alice Page

opened the door to find two stalwart

opened the door to find two statwart young men standing there. With a quick impulse of propriety she stepped out and closed the door behind her, only to find herself clasped in a big

brother's arms and to receive a smack that was heard by every pupil in the little schoolroom. With a very red

face she freed herself and then presented a small hand to the other young

man with the remark:
"I think you are both just as mean

as you can be to surprise me in this

When explanations were duly made, the two visitors were invited inside and

given seats. The class in reading was then dismissed and that in spelling

called to what was now seemingly to them an unexpected misery. A bomb-

shell or a ghost at the window would

not have produced any more consterna-

tion than those two strange visitors. This class, that one by one filed up in front of the teacher's desk and ranged

themselves in line, stood trembling, and the boy at the head, to whom was put

the first word, was unable to utter a sound. The next one spelled it wrong,

and it was tried by two others and

hardly do better than whisper it.

finally spelled right by a girl who could

setback, however, for that day, and

Alice decided to do the wisest thing and

dismiss her band of pupils without de-

lay. When the room was cleared of

"Propriety is—is— Propriety," re-plied her brother, "consists in two young men surprising one small and

very saucy schoolma'am and letting a lot of imprisoned boys and girls escape

to the woods and enjoy an extra hour

"Not right," said Alice severely. "The

"Not right," said Alice severely. The next pupil will now answer."
"Propriety," answered Frank, "consists in two young men escaping from the city and relieving one tired school-teacher from her duty and permitting her to go and gather flowers if she will, her to go and gather flowers if she will, the city wan told the

But which was the girl you told the fairy tale to, Miss Page?" he added as

Alice began putting her books away, "The only one in the spelling class you two bold, bad men didn't scare half

out of her wits," she answered.
Frank walked about the room, peer

ing curiously at its rather primitive fit-

"So this is what you call a temple of

learning," he remarked as he surveyed

the barnlike room. "It is a curiosity

a plece."
""" had better not try it," answered
Alice. "unless you want two or three

of freedom.

ANDGATE was just budding forth in a new suit of green, the meadows dotted with daisies, and here and there a

spend every cent of it before he came.

CHAPTER XVI

ICE PAGE'S first impression of Frank Nason did not do him justice. She thought him a big, good natured, polite boy, rather conscious that he was likely to be sought after and disposed to sulk if he wasn't. His plea for sympathy on the score that his life of idleness was a bore, which he made the day they went sleighing, only provoked her derision, and as she was disposed to judge all men by the standard of her self reliant brother, he came near awakening contempt on her part. It was not until the last evening of his visit that she discovered her mistake and realized that he had more depth of character than she had thought. It is likely the keen enjoyment which he seemed to feel when she sang for him had weight, for we are prone to like these who like us, and it was natural also that she should feel a little gratitude for what he had done for her

Her life, hidden as she was in a byway corner of a country town and seeing no one all the week except her small band of pupils, gave her plenty of time for thought. Once a week, usually on Saturday, she received a letter from her brother, and that, together with the mild excitement of Sunday churchgoing, was all that broke the monotony of her life.

A week after the Christmas visit she received a package containing a new book, three of the latest popular songs and a box of candy, and pinned to the candy Frank Nason's card, on the back of which was written, "For the girl who wanted to kiss her teacher."

She wrote a polite note of thanks. It was midwinter and two weeks after her brother wrote that Frank had begun studying law in his office when she received a letter from that young man that surprised her. He wrote:

that surprised her. He wrote:

My Dear Miss Page—I trust you will
pardon me for intruding myself upon you,
but I wish you to know that a few pointed words spoken by you while I was entoying your hospitality have not been forgotten and have influenced me to make
an effort to be something better than an
idler in the world. Your brother kindly
consented to let me read law in his office,
and I am now hard at it. I do not imagine this will interest you, but I felt that
you had scant respect for useless people,
and as you could rightly so regard me I
wanted you to know that I am capable of
rising above my aimless life.

wanted you to know that I am capable of rising above my aimless life.

I have recalled so many times all the little incidents of my visit to your home and lived over those eveniugs graced by your presence and lit by a cheerful firetime and again. Do not think me insincere when I assure you that they were the most delightful ones I ever passed. If you find time to write a line to one who is now a worker in the hive instead of a drone, it will be gratefully received by me.

To a girl with Alice Page's sympa thetic nature and tender feelings words like these made her feel she was what she most enjoyed being-an inspiration and help to others. In this respect Frank Nason had read her better than she had read him, or else some fortu-nate intuition had led him aright. She answered the letter at once, thanking him for his frattering words, but for-bidding him to use any more of them.

"I do not hke flattery," she wrote, "because no one ever can feel quite sure it is incere. I will answer all your letters if you will promise not to tell Bert we are corresponding. Not that I am ashamed of it by any means, but he is inclined to tease me, and I love him so dearly I can't bear to have ******* nim do so. The little girl you sent the candy to was both astonished and grateful. I did not tell her who sent it, for the fact would have been all over town in a week if I had, and I do not like to be gossiped about. I merely told her a good fairy had sent it, which was bet-

> Once a week thereafter Alice received a long letter from Frank and as

regularly answered it.
"Frank is getting along nicely," Albert wrote Alice in the early spring.
"I believe he has the making of a capable lawyer in him. He grinds away harder than I ever did when reading law and has never yet complained of how dry and dull it all is. He is a big, warm hearted fellow, too, and I am growing more fond of him every day. He is more devoted to me than a brother, and we have made a lot of plans for a mosth's outing on the Gypsy this coming summer. I like his family very much, and Mrs. Nason and both her daughters have invited me to bring you down when your school closes to make them a visit. I think I shall run up in June and stay over Sunday and bring Frank with me. I imagine he would like to come, for once in awhile I overhear him humming 'Ben Bolt!" "A very nicely worded little plot, but don't you imagine, my dear Bert, I do not see through it!" was the mental

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The barning room. It is a chosen to me, and the first time I was ever in an old time country schoolhouse. I should like to peep through one of the knotholes some day and watch the performances and hear a scared boy speak

Minard's Liniment Relieves Neu-

farmers to swoop down on you armed with scythes and demanding to know what you are doing there."

When she had locked the schoolhouse floor they got into the carriage the two young men had come in and left the forlorn little temple to the solitude of the trees and bushes that almost hid it

"I will stop in the village," said Albert as they drove away, "and leave you two to go home or take a ride, as suits you best; only, mind, be home by tea time, for I shall be hungry."

There is no time when a drive-along wooded country roads is more charming than when the trees are fast grow ing green and the meadows spangled with daisies and buttercups.

"Let's go around by the mill pond," said Alice after leaving her brother in the village. "The road to it follows the brook up a mile. We may find a few lilles in the pond."

The brook beside which they were soon walking the borse.

soon walking the horse was a charming bit of scenery as it came leaping over mossy ledges, laughing, chattering and filling the pools with foam flecks, and the old mill, with its great wheel dripping and clattering, and the mili itsel proved even a greater curiosity to Frank than the schoolhouse. He hitch ed the horse, and, helping his fair com-panion to alight, the two went inside the mill and watched the rumbling wheels. Alice introduced her escort to the miller, and after they had been shown the mysteries of grinding he in-vited them out to the pond, and after bailing the old leaky boat so it was usable the two visiters started after the lilies.

"Mind you don't tip me over," said

dice. "I can't swim."
"If I do I'll rescue you or drown with you," he answered gallantly. What silly nothings these two young cople uttered as they made the circuit of that long wood bordered mill pond! One at least was just tasting the first sweet illusion of love, and the glassy surface of the water that reflected the trees bending over it, the bunches of water flag growing here and there and the scattered patches of broad lily pads, with now and then a white blossom, made a most picturesque back-ground for the girl who sat in the stern. Her piquant face, shaded by a broad sun hat, was fairer to his eyes than any of the lilies she plucked, and as she drew one sleeve up a little to reach for them the round arm and dimpled hand she thrust into the wa-ter looked tempting enough to kiss. The miller had shut the gate and gone home when they returned to the mill.

"Do you know," remarked Frank when they had left the mill behind and were driving through a bit of woods that I have anticipated this visit for weeks? I know scarcely anything about the country, and it is all a reve-lation to me. I've seen pictures of old mills and ponds covered with lilies, but no painter can ever put the reality on canvas. Why, that great wheel, covered with moss and churning away all day so steadily, with a willow

ending over it, is a poem in itself!"

"The mill was built over a hundred
years ago," observed Alice, "and has
been grinding away ever since. I love to visit it, for it takes me back to childod, and," she added, a little sadly, "It makes me live over the happiest days of my life, when father used to take me with him everywhere he

(To Be Continued.)

Men Restored to Vigor



was told to go to the head, and after that the rest did better. The search for knowledge in that school had received a them she turned to her two callers and said with mock seriousness, "The first class in deportment will now define propriety,"

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