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N THIS PAPER ADVERTISERS

"Ye'll be meeting that young Car- veritable Carmichael, but with a michael to-night," she said.

JANUARY 2, 1908

"Probably, mother; what of

he's the son of the man that killed yer father?" She always spoke of Mr. Carmichael to me as the man ter, not to be frittered away in who had killed my father.

" I'll not forget." "And ye'll promise me ye'll hev' nothing to do with him?"
"I promise."

"I'm satisfied then. Ye know my wish in the matter."

My poor little mother. It was the only thing in this world upon which she strongly asserted herself, that I should have nothing to do with the Carmichaels; and, as I gave such ready assent to her will hat evening, I little thought how soon and how severely my own will was to be tested.

Gay met me at the door of the parlor, which, wonderfully metamorphosed since the morning, and all pink in the light of a lamp draped in a new red silk shade, looked very inviting.

"Come right in, Peggie," she said, making haste to place me in the largest armchair. "How nice you look! Now, then, tell me if you think my dress is pretty," and she spun round before me, a bewildering flutter of soft pink and cream lace, while her mother looked on, so tiredlooking, but the proudest of mothers.

"We can't go just yet," she said, sitting down upon the sofa, and arranging the new cushions most bewitchingly about her, "because Dick Carmichael's going to call. It was so good of him! I was talking about how dreadfully afraid I am of the dark, so he said he'd come, as I might feel safer with him than just with Choddy. Afterward, Hud Jamieson told Toddy he was coming I think he might have called to asked permission, don't you? But we'll have one apiece, my dear."

In our quiet little district, you will see, this arrangement could cause no comment. Upon all such occasions as parties, and meetings in the church, it was a time-honored custom that the lads and lasses should go unchaperoned, the lads holding it as an honored right to see the lasses safely home, and never dreaming of presuming upon the privilege. Only once, indeed, in the whole history of our community, had there been a lapse from virtue within its borders, and so great had been the horror consequent upon it that he had fled the country, and she, unable to face the fury of her father, her only living parent, had gone out to service somewhere. Poor Jean Moffat-but once did she return, and that was to her father's the time, and good Amanda Might deathbed. her, and died with his head on her old Hallowe'en games, which had debreast. But that did not alter the lighted her on that memorable night fact that but seldom, then or after, was Jean Moffat's name spoken, and With the supper, too, came the culthat with bated breath.

evening, for I could not keep my eyes off her, I thought again that the little drama of the mouse and the butterfly was being enacted over again, only that Gay was now a much more radiant butterfly. From the tip of her tiny slipper to the top of her shining head, she was daintiness itlf, and, as she talked, with the dimples coming and going in her cheeks, and her eyes sparkling with merriment, I wondered if this earth could provide anything fairer to look at; and when Dick Carmichael and Hud Jamieson came in I felt they

must think so, too. I had seen so little of either of them during the last few years that it seemed like meeting them anew. Hud had indeed grown into a very handsome young man, slight and rather undersized, to be sure, but with a vivacity of expression, and a little way of saying things as though he had kept them just for you, which promised to make him, on occasion, rather dangerously attractive. As for Dick, he stalked into the room, straight and strong of limb and broad of shoulder, a

severe and solemn countenance little like that of the boy, Dick, with whom I had roved the fields in those "Ye'll not forget," she said, as happy days of long ago. When he though half distrustful of me, "that spoke, in a low voice, yet rich and deep as that of his father, it was as though he thought life a serious mattrivialities; yet it was for Dick that Gay had all her smiles, and all her bright chatter; and when she talked to him, moving her hands, with all the soft roundness of her arms showing to the elbow, where the dainty frills of lace covered them, with the color burning in her cheeks and the excitement in her eyes, she looked the most winsome creature in the world, and I thought it but little wonder that Dick should look at her and occasionally break forth into one of the rare smiles that transformed his face, or yet more rarely into the deep laugh which belonged to none but the Carmichaels

It was surely enough that he had spoken to me courteously. ago he had come to know fully of the edict which my mother had issued in regard to our friendship, and he had never presumed. I, too, was I not in honor bound to have naught to do with the house of Carmichael? And had I not, though my reason exonerated Dick of any complicity in his father's misdeeds, kept that honor in all faithfulness? Why, then, should a little sore spot come into my heart as he talked to Gay, and why, though I hated and despised myself for the weakness, should I strain my ears to hear what they were saying, while Hud Jamieson's platitudes, uttered in his peculiarly musical tones, came to me as a faroff tinkling?

Utterly demeaned in my own conscience, ashamed so that I felt the hot blood surging in my cheeks, I compelled myself at last to attend, and even to talk with unusual gayety to Hud, even when it came time to go, and Dick, placing Gay's cloak about her shoulders, passed out of the door with her without even a glance at me.

Again, I resolved not to care, and clenched my hands until the nails hurt the flesh in determination, but was so little successful that the evening passed to me like a weary dream, in which I was compelled to act a part, while everywhere before me danced a vision of Gay smiling at Dick, talking to Dick, although Hud Jamieson, too, now hovered near her, darting to catch up her handkerchief, or to perform any such small gallantry as presented itself.

As I had surmised, the apple-parwas continued for but little of Folk said he forgave had full satisfaction in seeing all the of her youth, played over again. mination of her happiness. The girls As I watched Gay Torrance that carried up dainties from the cellar, until it seemed that there were no end to them, while the boys found enough to do in passing about the clear, fresh cider and hot coffee.

For my part, I felt little enough like eating, and, after a sip of cider and a bite of berry pie, for looks' sake, I slipped out of the open door and stood near it. It was a wonderfully warm night for the first of November, for the Indian summer had come early that year, yet the moist air seemed to cool my brow and leave me better able to think.

(To be continued.)

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