

the "Knight," and he wound up by proposing that Edith should occupy a position in the society, something between that of a sovereign and a patron saint.

"I am no Dulcinea del Toboso," good Knight of the rueful countenance. Your sovereign and patroness sought to be 'Devoir.' However, the boy's idea struck her as one that might, perhaps, be carried out to a certain extent, not without advantage. But she impressed on Edward that no step ought to be taken without the consent of the Warden of the School.

So Edith humoured the boy's fancy, and that day on Jack Ross's return, the plan was communicated to him and to some other pupils of S. Basil's College, Douglasville. And so it came to pass that from what had been proposed half in jest, the "Boys Association" of S. Basil's School arose and flourished. Of its constitution and rules we shall speak hereafter, but the first thought of its establishment came with the above conversation between the cousins. It has borne fruit in the earnest lives of many; its results have been tested in the trade mart, in the hospital and the battle field, and among the boys of that school its members never lost the name of the "Knights of Maple Wood."

When late in the evening Major Ellis returned, Edith was in the drawing-room with Mrs. Cadgett. Edward sat there too reading. "Tell him it's all right, tell him you went to the keeping in," whispered Mrs. Cadgett. "I shall tell my father the whole truth, Mrs. Cadgett," said Edward. "Very well, sir, have your own way, and get flogged," said Mrs. Cadgett in wrath, with an evil look at Edith, to whose influence she instinctively attributed this slighting of her counsels. However, for her too a triumph was at hand. For as the ladies descended to the dining-room they could hear Major Ellis' voice. "Of course, Edward, you have let nothing prevent you from going to school this afternoon." "I am sorry to say that I have, sir. I did not go." "After my warning to you, have you absented yourself again?" "Yes, sir." The voices sounded from a room next the dining room, whence also presently came the sound as of heavy blows of a horsewhip, but no crying or remonstrance.

CHAPTER III.

PER "GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY."

It was the remembrance of this scene, no less than the general impression made on her mind by the Cadgett element in the family, which made Edith less buoyant and hopeful in her new home than she had been the day before. This feeling was increased by a certain air of discomfort about the room; the walls were bare unpapered plaster; there was neither fireplace nor stove; against one side hung a book-case scantily furnished with a few dingy volumes,—a sheet almanac of the year 1857, and a mouldy portrait of the Prince of Wales, dressed in Highland costume, and with a look of extreme depression on his Royal face. As she looked from the window, the sky was dull, and thick mists were around the woods. When one is in bad spirits, very little things are annoying. The washing-stand was a most irritating washing stand—it was too low, and it would not