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## A PRECIOUS INHERITANCE.

### CHAPTER XII.

#### The Waters Are Troubled.

(Continued.)  
"Yes, he was," Maggie acknowledged that, and sure that she hated him terribly, she lingered long over that picture, admiring the classically-shaped head, the finely-cut mouth, and more than all, the dark eyes which seemed so full of goodness and truth. "Pshaw!" she exclaimed, at last, restoring the picture to its place. "If Henry were only a little taller, and had as handsome eyes, he'd be a great deal better looking. Anyway, I like him, and I hate Arthur Carrollton, who I know is domineering, and would try to make me mind. He has asked for my daughter's portrait, grand says—one which looks as I do now. I'll send it, too," and she burst into a loud laugh at the novel idea which had crossed her mind.

That day when Madam Conway returned from her ride, she was surprised at Maggie's proposing that Theo and herself should have their likenesses taken for Arthur Carrollton.

"If he wants my picture," said she, "I am willing he shall have it. It is all he'll ever get."

Delighted at this unexpected concession, Madam Conway gave her consent, and the next afternoon found Theo and Maggie at the daguerrean gallery in Hillsdale, where the latter, astonished both her sister and the

artist by declaring her intention of not only sitting with her bonnet and shawl on, but also of turning her back to the instrument! It was in vain that Theo remonstrated: "That position or none," she said; and the picture was accordingly taken, presenting a very correct likeness when finished of a bonnet, a veil and a shawl, beneath which Maggie was supposed to be.

Strange as it may seem, this fresh track Madam Conway favorably. Arthur Carrollton knew that Maggie was unlike any other person, and the joke, she thought, would increase rather than diminish the interest he already felt in her. So she made no objection, and in a few days it was on its way to England, together with a lock of Hagar's snow-white hair which Maggie had coaxed from the old lady, and unknown to her grandmother, placed in the casing at the last moment.

Several weeks passed away, and then there came an answer—a letter so full of wit and humor that Maggie confessed to herself that he must be very clever to write so many shrewd things, and be withal so perfectly refined. Accompanying the package was a small rosewood box, containing a most exquisite little pin made of Hagar's frost-hair and richly ornamented with gold. Not a word was written concerning it, and as Maggie kept her own counsel, both Theo and her grandmother marveled greatly, admiring its beauty and wondering for whom it was intended.

"For me, of course," said Madam Conway. "The hair is Lady Carrollton's, Arthur's grandmother. I know it by its soft, silky look. She has sent it as a token of respect, for she was always fond of me," and, going to the glass, she very com-

pleasantly ornamented her Honiton collar with Hagar's hair, while Maggie, bursting with fun, beat a hasty retreat from the room lest she should betray herself.

Thus the winter passed away, and early in the spring George Douglas to whom Madam Conway had long ago sent a favorable answer, came to visit his betrothed, bringing to Maggie a note from Rose, who had once or twice sent messages in Henry's letters. She was in Worcester now, and her health was very delicate. "Sometimes," she wrote, "I fear I shall never see you, Maggie Miller—shall never look into your beautiful face, or listen to your voice; but whether in heaven or on earth I am first to meet with you, my heart claims you as a sister—the one whom of all the sisters in the world I would rather call my own."

"Darling Rose!" murmured Maggie, pressing the delicately traced lines to her lips, "how near she seems to me!—nearer almost than Theo." And then involuntarily her thoughts went backward to the night when Henry Warner first told her of his love, and when in her dreams there had been a strange blending together of herself, of Rose and the little grave beneath the pine!

But not yet was that veil of mystery to be lifted. Hagar's secret must be kept a little longer, and, unsuspecting of the truth, Maggie Miller must dream on of sweet Rose Warner, whom she hopes one day to call her sister!

There was also a message from Henry and this George Douglas delivered in secret, for he did not care to displease his grandmother-elect, who, viewing him through a golden setting, thought he was not to be equaled by any one in America. "So gently," she said, "and so modest, too," basing her last conclusion upon his evident unwillingness to say very much of himself or his family. Concerning the latter she had questioned him in vain, eliciting nothing save the fact that they lived in the country several miles from Worcester, that his father always stayed at home,

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and consequently his mother went but little into society.

"Despises the vulgar herd, I daresay," thought Madam Conway, contemplating the pleasure with Mrs. Douglas, senior!

"There was a sister too," he said, and at this announcement Theo opened wide her blue eyes, asking her name, and 'why he had never mentioned her before.'

"I call her Jenny," said he, coloring slightly, and adding playfully, as he caressed Theo's smooth, round cheek, "wives do not usually like husband's sisters."

"But I shall like her, I know," said Theo. "She had a beautiful name—Jennie Douglas—much prettier than Rose Warner, about whom Maggie talks to me so much."

A gathering frown on her grandmother's face warned Theo that she had touched upon a forbidden subject, and as Mr. Douglas manifested no desire to continue the conversation, it ceased for a time, Theo wishing she could see Jenny Douglas, and George wondering what she would say when she did see her!

"For a few days longer he lingered, and ere his return it was arranged that early in July, Theo should be his bride. On the morning of his departure, as he stood up-

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on the steps alone with Madam Conway, she said: "I think I can rely upon you, Mrs. Douglas, not to carry either letter, note or message from Maggie to that young Warner. I've forbidden him my house, and I mean what I say."

"I assure you, madam, she has not asked me to carry either," answered George; who, though he knew perfectly well of the secret correspondence, had kept it to himself. "You mistake Mr. Warner, I think," he continued, after a moment. "I have known him long, and esteem him highly."

"Tastes differ," returned Madam Conway, coldly. "No man of good breeding would presume to cut up my grandfather's coat, or drink up my best wine."

"He in tended no disrespect, I am sure," answered George. "He only wanted a little fun with the stars and stripes."

"It was fun for which he will pay most dearly, though," answered Madam Conway, as she bade Mr. Douglas "good-bye; then, walking back to the parlor, she continued, speaking to herself: "Stars and stripes!" I'll teach him to cut up my blue bodice for fun! I wouldn't give him Margaret if his life depended upon it; and sitting down, she wrote to Arthur Carrollton, asking if he really intended visiting America, and when.

To be continued.

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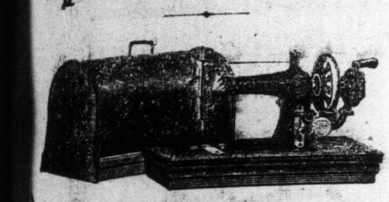
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