"How is Meg?" asked Barry, when she could get in a word between the laughing and the chaffing.

"Oh, she's fine," volunteered Mistress Jones. "She's up at the house waitin'. The supper's all spread out o' doors, an' someone had to stay to keep the cat off an' shoo the hens out o' the yard.—We're jist goin' :o eat an' run, Barry. We know ye'll be wantin' to rest, darlin', but we couldn't let the day go by without celebratin' a little. It isn't every day a bride comes to us from furrin parts. We've been sittin' on pins an' needles fer fear it 'ud rain, but ye'd think the weather had been made on purpose."

"And how is it that you're here, Jimmy?" I asked.

"I got a chanst o' buyin' a bit o' land behind the tavern," he explained, "an' we're goin' to turn the tavern into a dwellin' house. Ye see I made good money over'n the States, an' got a start, enough to pay down a payment or two, yes, siree!—No goin' back behind The Block any more fer Hannah!—Now then, boys!" turning away from us and holding up his hand to the others, exactly as I have seen him do many a time at a "raising" before he began to yell "Yo-Heave!"

But with that he himself picked up my moth⌐ s if she had been a bird, and placed her, laughing at hi⌐   ₁g, beside Barry, while the lads set upon the hors⌐ ₁nd took them out of the wagon, and my father led them off. Then the lads fell along on each side of the tongue and behind the wagon, and so pulled and pushed us the rest of the way home, in the midst of such laughing and halloing as had seldom before been heard along the old road.

I looked at Barry, and she was smiling through tears "How dear they are! How very dear they are!" she said

—And so we turned in at the gate, and went on to the house, where, indeed, was Old Meg standing guard over the tables laid out in gala array in the evening sunshine be fore the door, with bright autumn leaves festooned abou and above them, and great bunches of Michaelmas daisie and purple wild grapes in jars along the center.

It was a gay and glad scene, but even in the midst of i