aging, indeed. "I won't shell 'em-I won't shell one!" vowed Clover, putting out her little foot, and giving the basket a kick that sent it clear under the kitchen

"Clover Fleetwood, you will! You'll shell the last one !"

Clover's aunt was thin, and limp, and languid of motion, but very determined withal, and now she shut her mouth like a steel-trap, and pointed an uncompromising finger at the peas, after which he trailed her limp skirt out to the rice-pudding out of a yellow earther back yard, where a big black kettle of soap was bubbling.

And sulky little Clover, left alone, confronted by the terrible peas, bit a big hole in the corner of her apron, and kicked the basket over on its side, and stamped her foot, and bit her lip, and finally got a tin-pan and a chair, and began the hopeless-looking task with impations, wavage hitle lingers.

Poor Clover was only seventeen, not wise, not prepared for the hard phases of life, nor even the small, unpleasant tasks, by the strength, and patience, and faith that must come later, especi-ally with tender, considerate guidance. But at present, with the good yet undeveloped, and all the little sharp pourts of temper and contrariness rubbed up the wrong way, with little, half-unconscious and unsatisfied longings dor Analp to good upward into a brighter and a better atmosphere than she knew, and with an admixture of real faults, Clover often appeared a de-There was one who, she felt instinc-

and sympathy of a truly wise and noble nature. But he spent the greater part | big iron spoon; and there they all were of his time in his own room writing glaring at her, her limp, stony aunt, tentedly. "If he ever looks at me at all, it is in a way as if he was thinking, through them all, and never stopped in 'I wonder what kind of an insect this ist in the new specimen ? I hope he

won't take a notion some time to send me to the State entemployist in a botdist now those dreadful black-eyed but she did not care for that. The shells of some were tough and rethere peas now, Miss Fleetwood," her

Her fingers were sore and her shoulders smoke bonse. It was so bard to resume the tiresome shelling that at last a dark flocks of plumy white clouds were drifttemptation assailed Clover. The backet ing from the east. was yet half-full of the dreadful things, big, ompty fire-place, with a fire-board swallow up all these peas, without injuring its digestion in the least; and these shelled personnels in the attic, in the big bag with the rest, could tell no tales. If the unshelled peas were at last discovered, she would at any rate

"Whatever is the child up to?" Mr. Clarendon stood in the doorway, viewing, with curious amusement, Miss Clover's performance of dumping a great heap of rustling pea-pods in be all true. You are a child, and your ed the fire-board up into its place with a spiteful, defiant little motion, and help you, I think, if I might—if you gazed at the interviewer with unflinch- would let me. But I fear you will not." ing eyes, although the blood was in her

"I'm hiding 'em, so I won't have to I'm up to." "But, dear Miss Clover-" he began,

half puzzled.

you. Does your conscience approve-" under her fringey, flaxen top-knot.

detested the sight of a black-eyed pea upward growth. as much as I do, you would not ask the advice of your conscience, either," she said, with a faint tremor in her voice. He smiled, but it was a gentle, pity-

"Poor little-" perhaps he was going to say "insect;" but a limp calico dress, with a limp woman inside of it, came langually up the steps, and dropped

into a chair as if they had auddenly melted together at that point. "Clover," spoke her aunt, in a voice which was in violent contrast to her manner, "if you've got them everlasting peas out of the way at last, you

better get that coffee a-roasting." For once Mr. Clarendon was guilty of great nonsense in the very first sentense of his treatise, for he wrote:

"This new specimen is a poor, over-worked; supple, foolish, darling little dunce."

Whatever Clover pretended, the black-eyed peas, hidden behind the fireboard, grew to be something of a burden. She knew it would have been better for her had she gone through with the task, instead of shifting the burden from her hands to her conscience. But she would not acknowledge it; and when she found, Mr. Clarendon regarding her with serious eyes, she grew defiant, and, taking a streak of reckless inconsistency, blamed him for it, and nerves and temper together led her to a climax of bad behavior, including the sins of kindling
havior, including the sins of kindling

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There was company at dinner, one

day—a gentlemnn who had come down to buy some land of Clover's uncle, and was going to build thereon. Clover refused to appear at dinner, because she would not be at the trouble of making herself presentable.

She had taken her station at the kitchen-table, just beside the open dining-room door, where she could hear the conversation and enjoy a little lunch all to herself at the same time. A sentence from her uncle suddenly very hard, and obstinate, and discour-

startled her:

"Just come out here. You can se the best site you'll have for a buildin' spot square from the kitchen-door." And there was a sound of shoving

back chairs and of footsteps. Clover's dress was torn, and her apron showed indications of an acquaintance with the sooty wash-kettle. Her flaxen coil was escaping from the comb and rollicking down her back, and she was armed with the iron kitchen-spoon with which, I am sorry to say-for it is very unromantic-she had been eating

dis. She could not make her escape out of the kitchen-door, because the diningroom door commanded a full view of it, and she would be detected by the in. vaders; yet it would not do to be found

Again the big fireplace came to the rescue, and in a flash Clover was be-hind the board and among the black-

rustled and creaked, seeming to lift up accusing voices, and to reproach he

for her deception But now the strange gentleman i the kitchen was speaking, and his voice drowned theirs :

"Here is something I want-a real old-fashioned fireplace. How wide is

She heard his footsteps approaching, and knew she would be discovered. She jumped to her feet with some dim idea of trying to climb up the inside upon the jagged, broken rocks. The quick, nervous motion brought her tively, could help her if he could—the gentleman the loarded at he aunt's, and who possessed the broad liberality stood terrified. Bushing Clover among stood terrified, blushing Clover among the black-eyed peas, still grasping the her astonished uncle, the amazed stranger, and Mr. Clarendon, looking down

at her with grave pity. With sudden desperation, she broke her flight until she reached the cool. quiet attic, with its soothing odor of dried herbs and fruit and hops.

It was late in the evening when she went down stairs. Supper was all over, Perhaps you'll finish shelling then

brittle, and snapped open unexpectedly, and the pear flew all around the room.

Her fingers were seen and the room. And Clover gathered them up in the

big basket; and carried there out of the back door, sitting down under a locust aunt was busy emptying her soft-soap tree beatde the long pine table where into stone jars, and carrying it to the the milk-pans were turned up in a row.

"They are angels with great soft and there, just a few feet away, was a wings," said Clover; "they are goingup there! And I am, oh, so far away re it. Maw it could very easily The angels wouldn't come near such a wicked little wretch as me !" Some one laid a gentle hand on he

shoulder. "Clover-Clover, child!" Mr. Clarendon said, "you are tired—and, I think, sad. Let me help you." She bent over the pan of peas, with

a little rush of tears. "Yes," she said, "so tired, and so hateful, and disagreeable !" "No," he answered, "that is not at

tween the two big andirons. She bang- feet have not yet found the paths of peace; but they will in time. I could She glanced up slyly, forgetting her

"I have cried sometimes." she mur shell 'em," said she. "That's what mured, "because I was afraid you cared more for the bugs than for me.

And here somebody's arms were around her in such a tight hug, she "You needn't lecture me," she broke forgot the pan of peas, and it slid from tled as if in soft laughter, and the 'I wouldn't think of telling Aunt bright tin pans on the table, catching Beth, he answered. "I only appeal to glints of moonlight, smiled at each other; and perhaps even the angels up Clover looked at him sulkily from in the clouds did not disdain to rejoice a little over the happiness that had "Maybe, if your fingers were sore come to the repentant little sinner, and come to the repentant little sinner, and

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the fire with his treatises, and gluing his specimens upside down upon the lid of a bandbox, that might have made him believe in her total depayity, had his injury been less penetrating and kindly than it was.

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