

noncommittal. He was ready, if she acknowledged defeat, to jeer at her and sneer at her forever and a day; but he would not begin until he had heard her story. He was not quite so sure of M'lindy Ann. He had lived with her twenty years, but it took more than that to learn all about M'lindy Ann.

She turned up her dress skirt so that the fire would not "draw" it, and began taking things out of her satchel—the same satchel which had journeyed with Eli while he was learning the ropes.

"Well," she said, deliberately, "the money's in bank—half in the First National an' half in the Germania. I divided it, so's in case one of 'em broke. I've got two bank-books an' two check-books—here they are. Every check on that money'll have to be signed by me—but, of course, I won't be mean about it, Eli. I consider that half of it's yours, anyhow."

Eli winced and smiled in sickly fashion, but M'lindy Ann only cast a fleeting glance at him.

"I made another deposit of four hundred and fifty dollars in the People's Bank," she went on calmly. "That's money I raised for the new church while I was in the city."

"M'lindy Ann!" gasped the astounded Eli.

"Yes," she answered, as if he had asked a question. "I thought I might as well make use of my time while I was there—so I went around among the big men an' tol' 'em who I was, an' what we needed—an' I got the money without any trouble. One o' the big lumber men there has promised two hundred dollars' worth o' lumber, an' another is goin' to give the seats for the church—them patent things, fine as a fiddle. I made 'em put it down in black an' white, for I didn't want 'em crawlin' out of it when I'd got away. With what we've got on han', that gives us our church without a dollar of debt."

"Great Sam!" murmured Eli under his breath.

She saw him give his arm a furtive

pinch, which seemed to be sufficiently convincing.

"I stopped with Cousin Laura's folks, an' they was mighty glad to see me," continued M'lindy Ann, with the light of pleasant memories on her face. "They wanted me to stay a month, but I'd said I'd come home to-day, so I come. But they took me to their church last Sunday, mornin' an' night, an' it was the greatest place to rest I ever saw. We set down to pray, and leant our heads on the back of the seat in front, an' they had people hired to sing for 'em, so there warn't a thing to do. It rested me up a whole lot. Then Monday I hunted up Sam Howard an' collected that hundred an' fifty dollars he's been owing us ever since the woods burnt down."

Eli's eyes glistened, but the words he tried to say stuck somewhere in their passage.

"An' then I went an' bought a lot o' things I'd been wantin' all my life," said M'lindy Ann, looking him in the face.

A dark flush suddenly spread over the sickly pallor of Eli's countenance.

"M'lindy Ann! Have you went an' been extravagant with the money?" he demanded severely.

M'lindy Ann leaned back and rocked in the crazy old kitchen chair.

"Yes, I have," she said calmly. "I heard you tell Si Groves, not more 'n a month ago, that you'd give that money to anybody that could collect it, for you'd been tryin' for ten years an' you couldn't. Well, I went an' collected it, an' I spent it as I pleased. I bought me a silk waist of a kind o' reddish color—ready made, at that—an' a bonnet with a feather on it, an' a flower about the shade o' the waist, an' skirt with a train to it, an' a new cloak, an' some shoes that wasn't brogans. An' I got a new umbrella, an' some gloves—I ain't had none sense I was first married; an' a sewin' machine—the old one's that limber in the joints that it travels all over the floor when I'm sewin'—an' I bought you a whole suit o' clothes, from head to foot. Maybe if you'd had 'em when you

went to the city the cows wouldn't 'a' et ye, like they did."

M'lindy Ann arose and gathered up the papers. Eli was about to say something, but she incidentally held up an old leather grip before his eyes, turning it upside down and shaking it to see if it was quite empty. He stood still for a long moment; and when he spoke his voice was a new voice.

"I'm sorry the house is in sich a fix, M'lindy Ann," he said. "How on earth ye manage to keep it clean is more'n I can see. Ye must have to work pretty hard."

And then M'lindy Ann turned and looked up at him, with something gleaming pleasantly in her eyes.

"We've both worked hard, Eli," she said. "Home's a pretty good place, after all them roarin' streets. I've never been as proud of anything as I'm goin' to be of that new church—an' us settin' there in our new clothes! It was awful nice of you to let me go to the city, Eli!"—[Munsey's.

"Music Hath Charms."

Yea, verily! as one may read upon the faces and attitudes of four at least of the listeners, and in the rapt expression of the musician. The two maidens who are whispering their confidences to one another may be making some playful reference to handsome Antonio himself; but the girl pausing with her water cans across her shoulder, the little sister bearing her baby brother, the maiden with fingers arrested in the task of winding her yarn, and the girl standing on the door-step, have succumbed to the sweet melody, proving in very deed the charm which music has over the human heart.

H. A. B.

Travelling Notes.

BY ONE OF MOLLIE'S AUSTRALIAN COUSINS.

You may think you know what is meant by a rush at a railway station, but I venture to assert you really know nothing about it, if you have not had to start from that at Florence. In this country no luggage is carried free of charge, except what one carries in one's hand, so everyone has to scramble for one's own goods and chattels, and place them where one can when once one has found an entrance into a railway carriage, a feat requiring skill and courage. For want of a little organization and order, everything within and without was a scene of the most hopeless confusion, equally for those who wanted to get out as for those who wanted to get into the train, the passages being blocked by the two opposite streams of people.

After much squeezing and considerable grumbling, the way was cleared, and we stepped into the first compartment, and arranged our things comfortably for the five hours' journey. Presently an English lady joined us, who proved a very pleasant travelling companion, partaking of our sandwiches and fruit, and we sharing in her tea, made in the carriage on her spirit kettle, and very delightful and refreshing it was. She knew Rome well, and gave us some useful information.

IN ROME AT LAST.

On arrival, there was one continuous call in Italian for porters, but we "humped our own swag," as we say in Australia, our three large baskets having been registered through, and after passing a long line of hotel cabmen, yelling out at the top of their voice the name of each respective hotel, we hailed a



"Music Hath Charms."

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