

HER HUMBLE **LOVER**

Signa shakes her head. He takes her hand and draws her to

the window.
"Look there," he says, with a quaint air of anticipating her surprise; and Signa utters an exclamation of aston-ishment. Below her lies the valley, with its river running down to the sea, which rolls on to the sands in gleaming bars of silver foam; but it is not the river, nor the sea, nor the climbing limbs of noble trees which call for the exclamation, but the apparition of a huge mansion which lies almost at their feet, and which she has hitherto missed. White, almost snow-white in the moonlight, it seem-

ed to float, phantom-like, amidst the softly waving trees and flowing river. The child laughs gleefully. "I thought you hadn't seen it!" says, triumphantly. "Mose people never guess that it's there. It's a real place you know." place, you know. "So I suppose," says Signa, laugh

"But I pretend it isn't," says Archie, gravely. "I pretend it is filled with knights, and ladies, and men in arm-

"Instead of which," says Signa, almost to herself, "it is probably filled with gentlemen in shooting jackets and ladies in the latest Newmarkets:

but softly as she says it, he hears her.

"Oh, no, but it isn't!" he e'ys,
crowing over her. "It's empty."

"Empty!" exclaims Signa, staring at
the magnificent pile. And, as she
looks she notices that the gardens, exquisitely planned as they are, are lying in a state of decay under the moonlight; that there are no lights in

the windows; that no sight or sound of living thing is to be seen or meard. She turns with a laugh to the child, who kneels on a chair by her side, with his chin perched on his hands, staring gravely, comically down at

"So it is, Archie. What a shame!" "Isn't it?" he says. "That's what "Isn't it?" he says. "That's what papa says. He says that the earl—it belongs to an earl, you know—is neg-lecting his duty," with a shrewd imi-tation of the rector's pulpit style—" neglecting his duty and wasting his substance in foreign lands, while to house of his fathers is left to decay," and he eyes Signa with an el-fish gleam in his solemn eyes. Signa struggles with her laughter,

but the imitation is too good, and a silvery peal rings like music through the room, causing Archie to start and

thrill with apprehension.
"Oh, I forgot," she says, checking herself, but it was your fault, you wicked, unearthly child. Archie, you must have learnt that by heart. But not laughing at you mustn't imitate papa; it's very wick-

"Is it?" he says, rather carelessly. "I won't do it if you don't like it. I won't do anything you don't like. You must tell me what you like, you w. I wish you would let me stay I could sleep on that woolly couldn't I?" know.

says Signa. "Mamma 'No-no," would be angry, dear. Come, you must go now. See, I will hold the light. Come." and she takes his hand in hers and opens the door.

"Will you stoop down and let me kiss you?" he asks, and she bends

own.
"Good night, princess," he thispers solemnly, and Signa, holding the light above her head, sees his white figure disappearing not quickly, but slowly, down the long passage.

Then she closes and locks the door and goes to the window.

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Yes, it is real enough, the vast place with every pillow and window standing out against the background of the trees, and as she looks down at it, all so solitary and silent, she can sympathize with Master Archie's childish dream, and almost feel inclined to dream herself.

"What a pity" she murmurs. "What

an i!diot a man must be to leave a place like this to the moth that devours, and to the rust that decays!
An earl, the child said; perhaps he has a half dozen such places; at any rate, he has none grander than this.

Yes I can see the weeds on the greet Yes, I can see the weeds on the great gravel path. I wonder now, wheth-er my uncle, the rector, would deem it a great crime if I ventured to pay a visit of exploration? Archie should accompany me, and we would people the old place to our heart's content."

Then she turns from the window, and is about to close it, when a man's

and is about to close it, when a man's voice, singing a scrap of the opera "Carmen" floats upward.

With a start, Signa draws back and listens; half convinced that it was fancy. But after a pause the voice floats up again, and almost against herself she draws the blind aside and looks down.

As she does so the song, the scrap of careless song, ceases, but she sees, or fancies that she sees, a shadow of man cross the weedy gravel path and join the other shadows in the shrub-

For a moment her blood runs quicker in her veins, then, with a laugh, she drops the blind and turns

"I'd better go to bed." half-ashamed of the effect the sudden appearance of life in the old place has produced on her. "Yes, certainly I had better go to bed, or, like Archie, I shall be dreaming 'big dreams'"
CHAPTER III.

"The boy stood on the burning deck." "The boy stood on the burning deck," repeats Archie, with a

"Well," says Signa, "that boy has been standing on that burning deck a long time, Archie. Don't you remember any more of it?"

ber any more of it?"

And she looks up from the volume of poems with an amused smile.
"There's something about dead, or fied, or head," says Archie, "but I forget exactly what it is. Oh, I remember now! "The boy stood on the burning deck, whence all but him had fied." The—the—no! It's no use, Signa; I think the sun has got into my head. It would be nice down by the shore. The tide is just coming in. Don't you think the boy might stand on the burning deck until to-morrow?" til to-morrow?

And he looks up at her with the quaint gravity that is so much in ad-

vance of his years.
"Perhaps he might," says Signa, glancing out of the window rather wistfully. "Put the books up while I fetch my hat and we'll have

scamper. A week has passed since Signa arrived at Northwell Rectory. days, Signa is incleined to think that but for Archie she would have been reduced to a state of imbecility like that of Mariana of "The Moated Grange." Never in all her varied Grange." Never in all her varied and extended experience, has she known what boredom is until now: and but for Archie she feels that she must have given up in despair and taken refuge in flight. But Archie has been the saving clause.

"I must do something," she said to the rector on the first morning. "I'm afraid I shouldn't do much good to the poor, or be of much assistance in looking after the parish. I never know what to say to poor people, and should feel that I had been guilty of great rudeness in entering their houses without an invitation. Oh, no! I am sure I should prove a failure. But I think I can find something to do. I will teach little Archie It you will let will teach little Archie, if you will let me?

And the rector had coughed and set his took down and looked at Mrs. Fedswell, who had mouned faintly and murmured something about the child

being very slow and obstinate.
"Slow!" echoed Signa, but pulled
herself up in time. "I've lots of
patience," she said; "let me try. We
have struck up an acquaintance, sworn
folioadals in adad almost all." a friendship, indeed, already.

The pleasant parents neither said "yea" nor "nay," but Signa took their incoherent response as a consent, and assumed the duties of Archie's guide, mentor and friend at once, much to the unexpressed relief of the rector and his wife, who were only too glad to shift their responsibility. For

Signa soon discovered that these worthy people's duty consisted in urg-ing upon other people the duty of hard work, and doing as little as they themselves could help. The "martyr" lay on the sofa all day and scolded the servants, and the rector lounged about the garden, or strolled aimlessly round his parish, and talked about "duty" to the curate, a lean and care-worn young gentleman, who worked from morning to night on a salary of something under a handred

Signa and her charge lived almost solitary lives together. An old room was found at the end of the rambling house, and converted into a schoolroom, and here, when they were not walking in the lanes, or clambering about the beach, the two spent their time; putting in an appearance in the dining-room at meal times. It was an admirable arrangement, and it suited all parties concerned, and no one better than Signa herself. With her silent as the first evening she arrived; but up in that old room overlooking the sea, there were many bursts of song and laughter, which never reached the gloomy apartments down-

Archie was the companion of all her walks, and chatted to her as he never chatted to any one else, pointing out the celebrities of the village on the Stor, and amusing her with his quaint criticisms on persons and things.

He pointed out Captain Jenks, the half-pay captain, who used to promenade up and down the quay in a suit of blue serge with brass buttons, and with a telescope under his arm. He also showed her the captain's son a local swell in gaudy costume, who said Archie, shrewdly, "spends all his time, Signa, leaning over the bar of the hotel; you'll see him if you look in at the door, talking with the young lady behind the bar." But Signa declined. He told her the names of the connect. He told her the hames of the boatmen sauntering on the beach, or thending their nets, and soon the "beautiful young miss that Master Archie allers has with him" began to be known, and the men touched their hats, and the women courtesied and Captain Jenks made a nautical salute, and young Mr. Jenks stared with all his eyes when her back was turned, and blushed and glared at his boots when he met her face to face. And thus the strange girl was getting gradually to be a part and parcel of the place, and—well, if she was not happy, she was at peace. She was living in one of Archie's enchanted castles for the present, but the time was coming when the spell should be broken, and how near that time was she little guessed.

"There is one thing I like about you awfully, Signa," says Archie, as they turn out of the gate and run hand in hand down to the shore. "You really mean it when you say you'll only be a minute; now it takes mamma half an hour to put her things on, and Miss Plumbe—that's the girl with the red cheeks, the doctor's daugnter you know; we met her yesterday in the High street, and she whispered to you that I was a singular child; but I heard her."

"I remember," says Signa, with a laugh. "You have sharp ears, Archie." Well, when she comes to dinner she takes a quarter of an hour to take her hat off. I've counted the time by the clock. Oh, Signa, let us go into the Grange gardens instead of to the sea," and he stops short in front of a pair of tall iron gates that stand at the entrance to the grass-grown avenue leading to the great white house, which he had shown her in the moonlight. It is not the first time they have stood and looked between the rusty bars, and Signa had listened to no end of Archie's stories about the big place, stories half vild and fearfully fabulous, made up from snatches of dinner table talk he had heard from his father. But hitherto they had not ventured beyond the gates, partly in consequence of Archie's never-ceasing anxiety to get to the beach, and partly because, for some reason too vague to put into words, Signa has avoided mentioning

words, Signa has avoided mentioning the subject to the rector.

They stand now looking in, Archie impatient, Signa hesitating.

"Come on," he says, with a tug at her soft, white hand. "Let us go right up to the house. I'll show you the sundial and the place where the brince say when he was here—a prince. prince sat when he was here a prince did really come and stay here-"The last temptation is irresistible."

says Signa, with a smile; gates are locked, Archie."

Archie laughs scornfully. "Of course they are, and we couldn't open them if they weren't; they're too old and rusty; but I know a place to get in at, if you'll stoop. I suppose get in at, if you'll stoop. I suppose you're not too tall to stoop very, very low?" and he looks at her critically "Let's see," and he half drags her to a gap in the hedge, half protected by a rough bar of wood, and instantly slips under like a rabbit. "Here I am, and I shan't come back," he says, with a laugh: "so you'd best follow or I shall think you can't bend!"
Signa hesitates another moment

then stoops and passes beneath the she had kept straight on her way, and vefused to pass the boundary-line of Northwell Grange? The Fates alone can cay. It was the Rubicon of her young life and she passed it. 'Come on!" exclaims Archie; "don'

he afraid!" for Signa stops short as



there flashes to her remembrance the snatch of "Carmen" that came float-ing up to her window, and the tall shadow that she saw or fancied that she saw, disappear among the trees.
"There's nothing to be afraid of except the deer, and even a girl can't be afraid of them. See! there they go!" and he throws up his arms and scares a herd of deer, that flit across the grass-grown avenue, and stand look-ing at the intruders with wide-open

and pricked up ears. "Tell me, Archie," says Signa, as she comes up to him, and stands to stare at the wide-stretching front of the great empty place, "do deer sing?"

"Do—deer—" and he bursts into a shrill laugh of glee. "Why, what made you ask that, Signa? Of course not; at least, not out of a fairy book. They do all sorts of things in Fairy-

"Forhaps this is Fairyland," said Signa, and I heard one of them in a fairly, good tenor voice singing the air from 'Carmen'—I mean from an opera, Archie." The child stares at her with his

head on one side, then he goes on with the confidence of a superior mind. "It must have been the gardener," he says "He lives in that lodge there; you can't see it from here, and he



sings sometimes, and he plays the

Signa laughs. "We'll say it was the gardener," she asserts carelessly: "Ah, Archie, what a beautiful place!" and she leans her hand against the stone pier of the broad steps, and puts her hat back with an air of enjoyable admiration.

"Isn't it?" exclaims Archie, as proud as if it belonged to him. "But, come up the steps, Signa—come up and look through the window. Don't be afraid; there's nobody there. See, the lock's all rusted, and there's grass on the steps. Papa says that the furniture must be all worm eaten and decaying away. I should like to go inside, shouldn't you?"

Signa leans on the broad window-sill, and peers through the dirty glass

into a vast hall.
"Very much," she admits, "but don't let that tempt you to commit a burglary, Archie; you were quite capable of it, I know! Ah! what a pity!" "What a pity it's left like this," he

what a pity it's left like this, in says, in his shrewd, quick way, "isnt' it? Signa, do you know what I would do it I were Lord Delamere, and Northwell Grange was mine?"

"I can't even guess," she says, taking his hand and wandering round the

"I should marry you, and come to live here," he says, gravely.

"You might do worse, Archie," says
Signa. "And I'm very much obliged
to you. But come along, Archie, I'm
not outle so hardened as you, and I'm not quite so hardened as you, and I'm in mortal fear of some one or some

nh mortal rear of some one of some thing appearing on the scene and de-manding our business here. Let us go back into the lane and down to the sea."
"Go back!" he laughs, with super-ior knowledge. "We needn't do that. Look here, come with me and I'll take you to the sea in a couple of min-

Signa pauses a moment to look back at the wing of the house they have wandered round, then she gives him her hand, and with all due triumph he lead, her down a sheltered wante eads her down which lies a cove of sand all golden in the sunlight, and upon which the green sea is rolling in with a musical, lapping sound

"Mind! Don't fail!" says Archie. There used to be a rail here, but it got rotten, and some one leant on it and toppled over and broke his arm, and so the gardener took it right away -not the arm, but the rail. There are some steps here. Give me your hand Don't be afraid," and he drops like a deather on to the first rough step and holds up his tiny paw.

Under pretense of accepting his assistance, Signa keeps a pretty tight grasp of the small fingers, and they descend to the little sheltered bay, and Archie points up with a laugh.

"See, the Grange has disappeared, Signa. Nobody would ever guess it was there, would they? They say the earl—this one's father—had this cut out of the rock so that he could come and get into his boat without being seen from the house, and row over to the town. I don't know what for; but papa said that he was a wicked old man. Now you sit down; I dare say you're tired. Girls always get tired, don't they? And I'll just build a castle with a moat round it. Would you lend me your sunshade for a spade? I won't hurt it; sand comes off quite easy.'

Signa looks at the sunshade for second, then tosses it to him with laugh, and curling herself up in a corner cits and dreams, her hands folded idly in her lap, her hat lying on the pebbles beside her, her fixed on the distant horizon. Half an hour passes; Archie has erected a huge mound of sand surrounded by a canal; the sunshade is irretrievably ruined; his boots and stockings are wet; he is supremely and ecstatically happy. Signa has been erecting her castle, and it is as unsubstantial 's. Half unconsciously, the sight deserted house has entered into her fairy visions, and she has been

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(To be continued.) Cromwell and Quinine.

We owe to Sir Clements Marham the introduction of quinine yielding trees to British India and the consequent cheapening of the drug from a guinea to a halfpenny an ounce in Cal-cutta, but the medicinal properties of cinchona bark had long been mown. They were discovered by the Jesuits, after whom it was called Jesuits' bark. Concerning that, Sir Clements used to Concerning that Sir Clements used to relate an odd coincidence. Oliver Cromwell died of tertian ague, and quinine might have saved him. In the very newspaper in which his death was announced, the Mercurius Politicus, there was an advertisement of Jesuits' bark for sale. But the name of Jesuit was abhorrent to the Puritans, and hence Cromwell's medical advisrs would have nothing to do with it.

-London Chronicle.

RELIEF FROM INDIGESTION

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You can procure these pills through any dealer in medicine or by mail, post paid, at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, from The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

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as thirsty flowers lock up to drink. There is music in the sunshine, the sweet and perfect harmony of earth and sky.

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where learning has lost its way
there music begins.

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when science has passed its confining boundaries, on the borderland
of art—there music begins.

"The music of the spheres," as end-

less as eternity, as unfathomable as space, as mysterious as life.
The songs of the earth are the same songs that "the morning stars

sang together" in perfect harmony and rhythm "when the world was

young."

For earth is heaven and heaven is earth. The stars are ours and not circling globes of mystery, and we a star and not an earthly word to those who dwell beyond the sky. For Cod is here and everywhere and

His interpreter is the music of the soul.—Robert Foresman in Pictorial Review for October.

TORONTO FAT STOCK SHOW

As evidenced by advertisement on another page of this issue, the Toronto Fat Stock Show are giving special attention to the farmer and breeder, and are offering many handsome prizes for classes where stock must be bred, fed and owned by exhibitor. is work along the right lines, and should bring out a good entry.

Geordie and the German Bullet. Two Tyneside pitmen in the North-

umberland Fusiliers were doing fa-tigue work behind the lines when a stray bullet chanced to hit one, going right through his hard and lodging itself in the thigh of the other. In hospital their wounds were attended first; the bullet passed through ma hand first, so I shud hev the bullet!" His "pal" Geordie replied, with a rue-ful look at his wounded thigh: "Aye, ye wor hit first right eneuf; but I stopped her. If ye wanted the bullet, why did ye not keep it, man, when ye had it?"—Newcastle Weekly Chronicle.

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Going the Limit.

Jones was one of those men who numble at everything and everybody.

e was once attacked by inflamma-He was once attacked by inflammatory rheumatism and was carefully nursed by his wife, who was very devoted to him, in spite of his faultfinding disposition. tills suffering caused her to burst into team sometimes as she sat by his bedsid.

One day a friend came in and ask-

ed him how he was getting on.
"Badly, badly!" he exclaimed; "and it's all my wife's fault." "Is it possible?" asked the friend,

in surprise.

"Yes. The doctor told me that humidity was bad for me, and there is that woman sits and cries, just to make it moist in the room."