

CHAPTER II

BON VOYAGE !

THE young Wests were self-reliant and practical to a man. Let it not be imagined that the momentous decision had been arrived at without careful consideration on everybody's part, before it was finally announced to Aunt Mary. Gerald, in his capacity of architect and business man, had gone deep into the matter of building, and arranged to a nicety just how much money, reduced to the medium of dollars, would be required to build a desirable family residence on Uncle Richard's town-lots. Two houses were to be erected, one for the use of the family, the other to be let at a nice high rental, but "only to people that one would like to have for neighbours," Alberta stipulated.

The Sunshine lawyer had sent a detailed plan of the city, with the property plainly indicated. It appeared to be situated in the best residential part of the town, about a mile and a half from the railway depot, and close to an electric tram-route. To the north, the lots overlooked Queen Alexandra Park, which afforded facilities for tennis and cricket, with an ornamental lake for boating, and a race-track. The river was not far from the site of their future home, being approached