

Their Hearts' Desire

added in response, laying her arm about his shoulders.

"Oh, a dandy time!" encouraged by her tone, and he would have asked her more about the climbing, but again some one interposed, and he disconsolately withdrew.

In the hall he met a little girl in white with accompaniments of blue, whose sash he had surreptitiously untied during the afternoon's frolic, and whose indignant glance had rested upon him more than once, but now, with the delicious inconsistency of her sex, she smiled and slipped her hand in his.

"I don't want to go home, do you?" she said, as they reached the foot of the stairs.

"No, I don't," said John.

They went up several steps in silence and mutual discontent. Then she stopped and turned to share with him her crumb of comfort. "Do you want to come to *my* party?"

John balanced himself on one foot, and