

A PRECIOUS INHERITANCE.

CHAPTER X.

Expected Guests.

On the Hillsdale hills the October sun was shining, and the forest trees were donning their robes of scarlet and brown, when again the old stone house presented an air of joyous expectancy. The large, dark parlors were thrown open, the best chambers were aired, the bright, autumnal flowers adorned the mantels, while Theo and Maggie, in their best attire, flitted uneasily from room to room, running sometimes to the gate to look down the grassy road which led from the highway, and again mounting the tower stairs to obtain a more extended view.

In her pleasant apartment, where last we left her with a sprained ankle, Mrs. Jeffrey, too, flighted about, half sympathizing with her pupils in their happiness and half regretting the cause of that happiness, which was the expected arrival of George Douglas and Henry Warner, who, true to their promise, were coming again "to try for a week the Hillsdale air, and retrieve their character as fast young men." So, at least, they told Mrs. Jeffrey, who, mindful of her exploit with the banner, and wishing to make some amends, met them alone on the threshold. Maggie having at the last moment "run away," while Theo sat in a state of dignified perturbation upon the sofa.

A few days prior to their arrival, letters had been received from Madam Conway saying she should probably remain in England two or three weeks longer, and thus the house was again clear to the young men, who, forgetting to retrieve their characters, fairly outdid all they had done before. The weather was remarkably clear and bracing, and the greater part of each day was spent in the open air, either fishing, riding or hunting, Mag teaching Henry Warner how to ride and leap, while he in turn taught her to shoot a bird upon the wing, until the pupil was equal to her master!

In these out-door excursions George Douglas and Theo did not always join, for he had something to say which he would rather tell in the silent parlor, and which, when told, furnished food for many a quiet conversation. So Henry and Maggie rode oftentimes alone, and old Hagar, when she saw them dashing past her door, Maggie usually taking the lead, would shake her hand and mutter to herself: "Twill never do—that match. He ought to hold her back, instead of leading her. I wish Madam Conway would come home and end it."

Mrs. Jeffrey wished so, too, as night after night her slumbers were disturbed by the sounds of merriment which came up to her from the parlor below, were the young people were "enjoying themselves," as Maggie said when reproved for the noisy revel. The day previous to the one set for their departure, however, she was to be present at the twenty-seventh birthday, and this Maggie resolved to honor with an extra supper, which was served at an unusually late hour in the dining-room, the door of which opened out upon a closely latticed piazza.



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"I wish we could think of something new to do," said Maggie as she presided at the table; "something real funny." Then as her eye fell upon the dark piazza, where a single light was burning dimly, she exclaimed: "Why can't we get up a tableaux? There are heaps of the queerest clothes in the big oak-chest in the garret. The servants can be audience, and they need some recreation!"

The suggestion was at once approved, and in half an hour the floor was strewn with fragments of every conceivable fashion, from long stockings and small clothes to scarlet cloaks and gored skirts, the latter of which were immediately donned by Henry Warner, to the infinite delight of the servants, who enjoyed seeing the grotesque costumes, even if they did not understand what the tableaux were intended to represent. The banner, too, was brought out, and after bearing a conspicuous part in the performance, was placed at the end of the dining-room, where it would be the first thing visible to a person opening the door opposite. At a late hour the servants retired, and then George Douglas, who took kindly to the luscious old wine which Maggie again had brought from her grandmother's choicest store, filled a goblet to the brim, and pledged first the health of the young girls, drank to "The old lady across the sea," with whose goods they were thus making free.

Henry Warner rarely tasted wine, for though miles away from Rose, her influence was around him; so, filling his glass with water, he, too, drank to the wish that "the lady across the sea would remain the eyelet awhile, or at all events not stumble upon us to-night!"

"What if she should!" thought Maggie, glancing around at the different articles scattered all over the floor, and laughed as she saw in fancy her grandmother's look of dismay should she by any possible chance obtain a view of the room, where perfect order and quiet had been wont to reign.

But the good lady was undoubtedly taking her morning nap on the shores of old England. There was no danger to be apprehended from her unexpected arrival, they thought; and just as the clock struck one the young men sought their rooms, greatly to the relief of Mrs. Jeffrey, who, in her long night robes, with streaming candle in hand, had more

than a dozen times leaned over the banister, wondering "if the carousing would ever end."

It did end at last, and tired and sleepy, Theo went directly to her chamber, while Maggie staid below, thinking to arrange matters a little, for their guests were to leave on the first train, and she had ordered an early breakfast. But it was a hopeless task, the putting of that room to rights; and trusting much to the good nature of the housekeeper, she finally gave it up and went to bed, forgetting in her drowsiness to fasten the outer door, or yet to extinguish the lamp which burned upon the sideboard.

CHAPTER XI.

Unexpected Guests.

At the delightful country seat of Arthur Carrolton, Madam Conway had passed many pleasant days, and was fully intending to while away several more, when an unexpected summons from his father made it necessary for the young man to go immediately to London, and as an American steamer was about to leave the port of Liverpool, Madam Conway determined to start for home at once. Accordingly she wrote for Anna Jeffrey, whom she had promised to take with her, to meet her in Liverpool and a few days previous to the arrival of George Douglas and Henry Warner at Hillsdale, the two ladies embarked with an endless variety of luggage, to say nothing of Miss Anna's guitar case, bird cage and favorite lap-dog "Lottie."

Once fairly on the sea, Madam Conway became exceedingly impatient and disagreeable, complaining both of fare and speed, and at length came on deck one morning with the firm belief that something dreadful had happened to Maggie! She was dangerously sick, she knew, for never but once before had she been visited with a like presentation, and that was just before her daughter died. Then it came to her just as this had done, in her sleep, and very nervous by the lady paced the vessel's deck counting the days as they passed, and almost weeping for joy when told Boston was in sight. Immediately after landing she made inquiries as to when the next train passing Hillsdale station would leave the city, and though it was midnight, she resolved at all hazards to go on, for if Maggie were really ill there was no time to be lost!

Accordingly, when at four o'clock a.m. Maggie, who was partially awake, heard in the distance the shrill scream of the engine, as the night express thundered through the town, she little dreamed of the boxes, bundles, trunks and bags which lined the platform of Hillsdale station, nor yet of the resolute woman in brown, who persevered until a rude one-horse wagon was found in which to transport herself and her baggage to the old stone house. The driver of the vehicle in which, under ordinary circumstances, Madam Conway would have scorned to ride, was a long, lean, half-witted fellow, utterly unfitted for his business. Still, he managed quite well until they turned into the grassy by-road, and Madam Conway saw through the darkness the light which Maggie had inadvertently left within the dining-room!

There was no longer a shadow of uncertainty: "Margaret was dead," and the lauk Tim was ordered to drive faster, or the excited woman, perched on one of her travelling trunks, would be obliged to foot it! A few vigorous strokes of the whip set the sorrel horse into a canter, and as the night was dark, and the road wound round among the trees, it is not at all surprising that Madam Conway

with her eye still on the beacon light, found herself seated rather unceremoniously in the midst of a brush heap, her goods and chattels rolling promiscuously around her: while, lying across a log, her right hand clutching at the bird cage, and her left grasping the shaggy hide of Lottie, who yelled most furiously, was Anna Jeffrey, half blinded with mud, and bitterly denouncing American drivers and Yankee roads! To gather themselves together was not an easy matter, but the ten pieces were at last all told, and then, holding up her skirts, bedrugged with dew, Madam Conway resumed her seat in the wagon, which was this time driven in safety to her door. Giving orders for her numerous boxes to be safely bestowed she hastened forward and stood upon the threshold.

"Great Heaven!" she exclaimed, starting backward so suddenly that she trod upon the foot of Lottie, who again sent forth an outcry, which Anna Jeffrey managed to choke down. "Is this bedlam or what?" and stepping out upon the piazza, she looked to see if the blundering driver had made a mistake. But no, it was the same old gray stone house she had left some months before; and again pressing boldly forward, she took the lamp from the sideboard and com-

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menced to reconnoitre. "My mother's wedding dress, as I live!" and her scarlet broadcloth, too!" she cried, holding to view the garments which Henry Warner had thrown upon the arm of the long settee. A turban or cushion, which she recognized as belonging to her grandmother, next caught her view, together with the small clothes of her sire.

"The entire contents of the oaken chest," she continued, in a tone far from being calm and cool. "What can have happened! It's some of that crazy Hagar's work, I know. I'll have her put in the—!" But, whatever the evil was which threatened Hagar Warren, it was not defined by words, for at that moment the indignant lady caught sight of an empty bottle, which she instantly recognized as having held her very oldest, choicest wine. "The Lord help me!" she cried, "I've been robbed!" and grasping the bottle by the neck, she leaned up against the banner which she had not yet deserted.

"In the name of wonder, what's this?" she almost screamed, as the full blaze of the lamp fell upon the flag, revealing the truth at once, and partially stopping her breath.

(To be continued.)

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Household Notes.

Grease stains on wallpaper will often disappear entirely if a mixture of pipe clay and water, made the consistency of a cream, is spread over them and allowed to remain overnight. In the morning it should be removed with a clean brush.

To clean the kitchen sink, wash it thoroughly with ammonia and warm water. Common sulphate of iron dissolved in the proportion of one pound to four gallons of water and poured over the sink will make it quite clean and sweet.

Refrigerators should be washed every day in hot weather with warm water containing plenty of borax or washing soda. Pieces of charcoal should be placed in the corners to absorb the odors of food, and these should be renewed often.

Big shampoo is made by beating the yolks of two eggs in two cupsful of warm soft water and then adding one teaspoonful of borax. Rub this into the hair, washing it off gradually with more warm water and rinsing at least three times.

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The Evening

By RUTH CARR

It is a very common thing for people to regulate their table diet in one way or another. One person tries to eat things that will make him fatter; another endeavors to select a bill of fare which will reduce his weight; an athlete eats muscle building foods, and so on.

Now, since we know the beneficial effects of regulation in this direction, it is not strange that we do not more often regulate our diet in other things beside food—friends, for instance?

A young girl came home in a very unhappy mood from visiting some friends, who, although good hearted people, are most emphatically, of the earth, earthy. They think of little besides clothes and opportunities to display them, and they spend all they can afford and a little more on keeping up appearances. Their visitor was a girl with a very limited income but she has always managed to pay her bills, dress herself attractively, and be quite content. But the visit seemed to have entirely changed her. She is discontented with her home, critical of her friends, recklessly extravagant in her purchases, and fretfully covetous of the expensive things which she can not possibly afford. Says her mother, "Gertrude shall never visit those people again if I can help it."

If we will stop to think we will all realize that our various friends have varying and very distinctive effects upon us.

There are those who always turn our attention towards clothes. We