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DENTAL

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______ Hagar's Secret...

By Mrs. M. J. Holmes...

But Mr. Carrollton felt more than repaid by having her thus alone with him, and many were the admiring glances he cast toward her, as with her shining hair, her happy face, her tasteful morning gown of pink, and her beautiful white hands which handled so gracefully the silver coffee-urn, she made a living, glowing picture, such as any man might delight to look upon. Breakfast being over, Mr. Carrollton proposed a ride, and as Anna Jeffrey at that moment entered the parlor, he invited her to accompany them. There was a shadow on Maggie's brow, as she left the room to dress, a shadow which had not wholly disappeared when she returned; and observing this, Mr. Carrollton said. "Were I to consult my own wishes, Maggie, I should leave Miss Jeffrey at home; but she is a poor girl whose enjoyments are far less than ours, consequently I invited her for ours, consequently I invited her for this once, knowing how fond she is

of 'riding."

'How thoughtful you are of other people's happiness!" said Maggie, the shadow leaving her brow at

the shadow leaving her brow at once.

"I am glad that wrinkle has gone, at all events," returned Mr. Carrollton, laughingly, and laying his hand upon her forehead, he continued' "Were you my sister, Helen, I should probably kiss you for having so soon got over your pet; but as you are Maggie Miller, I dare not," and he looked earnestly at her, to see if he had spoken the truth.

Coloring crimson as it became the affianced bride of Henry Warner to amanced period of Henry warner to do, Maggies turned away, thinking Helen must be a happy girl, and half wishing she, too, were Arthur Carrollton's sister. It was a long, delightful excursion they took, and delightful excursion they took, and Maggie, when she saw how Anna Jeffrey enjoyed it, did not altogether regret her presence. On their way home she proposed calling upon Hagar, "whom she had not seen for three whole days."

gar, "whom she had not seen for three whole days."

"And who, pray, is Hagar?" asked Mr. Carrollton, and Maggie replied, "She is my old nurse—a strange, crazy creature, whom they say I somewhat resemble."

By this time they were near the cottage, in the door of which old Hagar was standing, with her white hair falling round her face.

"I see by your looks, you don't care to call, but I shall," said Maggie, and bounding from her saddle, she ran up to Hagar, pressing her hand and whispering in her ear, that it would soon be time to hear from Henry.

Henry.

"Kissed her, I do believe!" said
Anna Jenrey. "She must have ad-Anna Jenrey. 'mirable taste!'

mirable taste!"

Mr. Carrollton thought so, too, and with a half-comical, half-displeased expression, he watched the interview between that weird old woman and fair young girl, little suspecting how nearly they were allied.
"Why didn't you came and specific

"Why didn't you come and speak to her?" said Maggie, as he alighted to assist her in again mounting Gritty. "She used to see you in England, when you were a baby, and if you won't be angry, I'll te'l you what she said; it was that you were what she said; it was that you were the crossest, ugliest young one she ever saw! There, there, don't set me down so hard!" and the saucy eyes looked mischievous!y at the proud Englishman, who, truth to say, did place her in the saddle with a little more force than was at all necessary.

Not that he was angry. He was

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Maggie's undue familiarity with a person like Hagar, but he wisely for-bore making any comments in Anna bore making any comments in Anna-jeffrey's presence, except, indeed, to laugh heartily at Hagar's compli-mentary description of himself when a baby. Arrived at home, and alone with Maggie, he found her so very good-natured and agreeable, that he could not chide her for anything, and Hagar was for a time forgot-ten.

That evening, as the reader knows where went together to the depot, where they waited four long hours, but not impatiently; for sitting there in the moonlight, with the winding Chicopee full in view, and Margaret Miller at his side. Arthur Carroll-Miller at his side, Arthur Carroll-ton forgot the lapse of time, especi-ally when Maggie, thinking no harm, gave a most ludicrous description of her call upon Mrs. Douglas, senior, and of her grandmother's distress at finding herself so nearly connected with what she termed "a low, vul-cor family."

with what she termed "a low, vulgar family."

Arthur Carrollton was very proud, and, had Theo been his sister, he might to some extent, have shared in Madam Conway's chagrin; and so he said to Maggie, at the same time fully agreeing with her that George Douglas was a refined, agreeable gentleman, and as such entitled to respect. Still, had Theo known of his parentage, he said, it would probably have made some difference; but now that it could not be helped, it was wise to make the best of it.

These words were little freeded then by Maggie, but with most painful distinctness they recurred to her

then by Maggie, but with most pain-ful distinctness they recurred to her in the after time, when, humbled in the very dust, she had no hope that the highborn, haughty Carrollton would stoop to a child of Hagar Warren! But no shadow of the dark future was over her now, and very eagerly she drank in every word and look of Arthur Carrollton, who, all unconsciously, was trampling on another's rights, and gradually weakening the fancied love she bore for Henry Warner.

The arrival of the train brought

days she resumed her usual spirits, and actually told of the remarks made by Mrs. Douglas concerning herself and the fight she had been in! As time passed on she became reconciled to the Douglases, having, as she thought, some well-founded reasons for believing that for Theo's disgrace, Maggie would make amends by marrying Mr. Carrollton, whose attentions each day became more and more marked, and were not apparently altogether disagreeable to Maggie. On the contrary, his presence at Hillsdale was productive of much pleasure to her, as well as of a little annoyance.

From the first he seemed to exercise over her an influence she could not well resist—a power to make her do whatever he willed that she should do; and though the sometimes rebelled, she was pretty sure in the end to yield the contest, and submit to one who was evidently the ruling spirit. As yet nothing had been said of the hair ornament which, out of compliment to him, her grandmother wore every morning in her collar, but at last, one day Madam Conway spoke of it herself, asking "if it were, as she had

day Madam Conway spoke of it her-self, asking "if it were, as she had

supposed, his grandmother's hair?"

"Why, no," he a soured, in the tarily: "it is a fee mangie sent me in that wonderind dague recetype!"

"The stupid thing! 'thought Maggie, while her eyes fairly danced with marriment, as she anticpated the question she fancied was sure to follow, but did not.

One glance at her tell-tale face was sufficient for Madam Conway. In her whole household there was but one head with locks as white as that, and whatever her thoughts might have been, she said nothing, but from that day forth, Hagar's hair was never again seen ornamenting her person! That afternoon Mr. Carrollton and Maggie went out to ride, and in the course of their conversation he referred to the pin, asking whose hair it was and seemed much amused when told that it was Hagar's.

"But why did you not tell her when

Hagar's. "But why did you not tell her when

it first came. he said; and Maggie answered, "Oh, it was such fun to see her sporting Hagar's hair, when she is so proud. It didn't hurt her either, for Hagar is as good as anybody. I don't believe in making such a difference because one person chances to be richer than anoth-

Neither do I," returned Mr. Car rollton. "I would not esteem a person for wealth alone, but there are points of difference which should receive consideration. For, instance, this old Hagar may be well enough in her way, but suppose she were nearly connected to you—your grand-mother if you like—it would certain-ly make some difference in your po-sition. You would not be Maggie

"Wouldn't ride with me, I dare say," interrupted Maggie; to which he replied, "I presume not," adding as he saw slight indications of pout-

he replied, "I presume not," adding as he saw slight indications of pouting, "and therefore I am glad you are Maggie Miller, and not Hagar's grandchild."

Mentally pronouncing him a "proud, hateful thing," Maggie rode on a while in silence. But Mr. Carrollton knew well how to manage her, and he, too, was silent until Maggie, who could not refrain from talk maggie, who for any length of time, forgot herself and began chatting away as gaily as before. During their excursion they came near to the gorge of Henry Warner memory, and Maggie, who had never quite forgiven Mr. Carrollton for criticising her horsemanship, resolved to show him what she could do. The signal was accordingly given to Gritty, and ere her companion was aware of her intention she was tearing over the ground at a speed he could hardly equal. The ravine was just on the border of the wood, and without pausing an instant, Gritty leaped across it, landing safely on the other side, where he stopped, while half fearfully, half exultantly, Maggie looked back to see what Mr. Carrollton would do. At first he had fancied Gritty beyond her control, and when he saw her directly over the deep chasm he shuddered. had fancied Gritty beyond her control, and when he saw her directly over the deep chasm he shuddered, involuntarily stretching out his arm to save her; but the look she gave him as she turned around convinced him that the risk she had run was done on purpose. Still he had no intention of following her, for he feared his horse's ability as well as his own to clear that pass. "Why don't you jump? Are you afraid?" and Maggie's eyes looked archly out from beneath her tasteful riding cap.

archly out from beneath her tasteful riding cap.

For half a moment he felt tempted to join her, but his better judgment came to his aid, and he answered, "Yes, Maggie, I am afraid, having never tried such an experiment. But I wish to be with you in some way, and as I cannot come to you, I ask, you to come to me. You seem accustomed to the leap!"

He did not praise her. Nay, she

customed to the leap!"

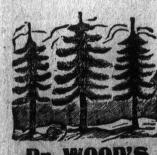
He did not praise her. Nay, she fancied there was more of censure in the tones of his voice; at all events, he had asked her rather commandingly to return, and "she wouldn't do it." For a moment she made no reply, and he said again, "Maggie, will you come?" then half playfully, half reproachfully, she made answer, "A gallant Englishman indeed! willing I should risk my neck where you dare not venture yours. No, I shan't ing I should risk my neck where you dare not venture yours. No, I shan't try the leap again to-day; I don't feel like it; but I'll cross the long bridge half a mile from here—goodby," and fully expecting him to meet her, she galloped off, riding, ere long, quite slowly, "so he'd have a nice long time to wait for her!"

How then was she disappointed, when, on reaching the bridge, there was nowhere a trace of him to be seen! neither could she hear the sound of his horse's footsteps, though she listened long and anxiously.

iously.
"He is certainly the most provok The arrival of the train brought their pleasant conversation to a close, and for a day or two Maggie's time was wholly occupied with her grandmother, to whom she frankly acknowledged having told Mr. Carrollton of Mrs. Douglas and her daughter Betsey Jane. The fact that he knew of her disgrace and did not despise her was of great benefit to Madam Conway, and after a few days she resumed her usual spirits, and actually told of the remarks made by Mrs. Douglas concerning

him, and then I think he'd be splendid, though no better than Henry. I wonder if Hagar has a letter for me!" and chirruping to Gritty, she soon stood at the door of the cabin. "Have you two been quarreling?" asked Hagar, noticing Mag's fushed cheeks. "Mr. Carrollton passed here twenty minutes, or more, ago, looking mighty sober, and here you are with your face as red—What has happened?"

(To Be Continued.)



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