

break into a house where there's a savage-looking man. (Never mind about thanking me for the compliment.) If *you'll* only come up, my mind will be completely at rest. The children won't give you the slightest trouble ; they're the best children in the world—everybody says so.

"Tom has plenty of cigars, I know, for the money I should have had for a new suit went to pay his cigar-man. He has some new claret, too, that *he* goes into ecstasies over, though *I* can't tell it from the vilest black ink, except by the color. Our horses are in splendid condition, and so is the garden—you see I don't forget your old passion for flowers. And, last and best, there never were so many handsome girls at Hillcrest as there are among the summer boarders already here ; the girls you are already acquainted with here will see that you meet all the newer acquisitions,

"Reply by telegraph right away. Of course you'll say 'Yes.'

"In great haste, your loving

"SISTER HELEN.

"P.S. You shall have our own chamber ; it catches every breeze, and commands the finest views. The children's room communicates with it ; so, if anything *should* happen to the darlings at night, you'd be sure to hear them."

"Just the thing!" I ejaculated. Five minutes later I had telegraphed Helen my acceptance of her invitation, and had mentally selected books enough to busy me during a dozen vacations. Without sharing Helen's belief that her boys were the best ones in the world, I knew them well enough to feel assured that they would not give me any annoyance. There were two of them, since Baby Phil died last fall ; Budge, the elder, was five years of age, and had generally, during my flying visits to Helen, worn a shy, serious,