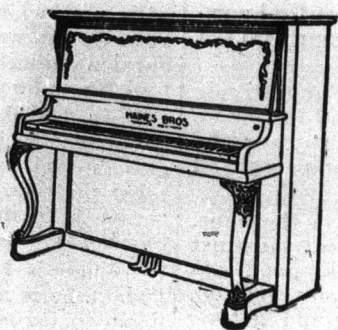




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plain to be seen what an easy prey he is to her wiles."

I was both shocked and grieved and cried out in anguish, "don't Aunt Sarah, don't. If you will think so badly of Miss Brewster, please don't include Frank in your judgment. He is the soul of honor, and if he is kind to Miss Brewster it's only because he pities her in her loneliness."

"What about you?" said Aunt Sarah. "I should think that Frank might find a little pity for you shut up here alone day after day."

"Oh, but he knows that I have you with me; you and baby, what more could any woman ask?" I replied with a smile.

"You can say what you like, Annie," said Aunt Sarah but "it's very plain to me that Frank thinks there's only one woman in the world and that one is not his wife either," with which she went out shutting the door rather hard.

I did not know whether I had better laugh at Aunt Sarah's queer notions or cry because she entertained them, but I sincerely hoped that she would not speak of her suspicions to any other person.

left us, and would like to do down on the first boat, if I was willing to be left so soon, "I shall only be gone a few days," he said; "and if you need me before I return you can telegraph a message to Pleasant Place will reach me alright."

"Pleasant Place," I replied, "is not that near Miss Brewster's home?"

"Only a short distance from it," said Frank, about 4 or 5 miles I should say."

I told him that I should be alright with Aunt Sarah and not to be uneasy about me or to hurry home on my account, but when he came to kiss me and baby good-bye, I clung to him, and cried like an infant, begging him not to stay away long.

Frank had only been gone two days, when one evening Miss Brewster ran in to tell me that she had just received a message saying that her aunt was ill, and that she herself was going home as soon as someone could be found to take her place. She seemed to be in great trouble, and I felt very sorry for her, and said so to Aunt Sarah, but to my surprise she turned on me fiercely: "Annie," said she, "don't try to make your self out a greater idiot than you are. They think they



Inspecting foundation of Coffey dam, Sturgeon River bridge, Transcontinental Railway.

When the doctor called the next day, he scolded because I was not as strong as I ought to have been, and told my aunt that I was not to be excited or worried on any account. "Perhaps," she retorted "if you were to have a talk with that husband of hers she would have less cause for worry in future."

"Just what I was thinking said the doctor, "I shall talk to him, I shall indeed."

"Oh, no! doctor," I cried, if you say anything to hurt his feelings, I will never forgive you. I am quite sure that there is nothing between them but friendship."

The doctor looked puzzled for a moment then said with a smile, "Oh, I see, oh! so that's it, is it? Oh, indeed; oh, of course its only friendship, any one with common sense would know that," he added glaring at Aunt Sarah. "Well madam, you may make yourself easy, I shall not hurt your husband; what I have to say to him, will do him good, and you too, I reckon. Oh, yes; indeed," and he went out chuckling.

It was late when Frank came in that night, and next morning he told me that he had some business down north, that he wished to attend to before Aunt Sarah

have managed very cleverly no doubt but a child could see through their manoeuvres."

"Aunt Sarah!" I cried, "what on earth do you mean? Whom do you mean by 'they'?"

"Oh, nothing," replied Aunt Sarah. "There's none so blind as those who won't see, but tell me, Annie, does it not seem strange to you that that girl should be summoned home as soon as Frank had gone; or that he should have business at that place that you knew nothing of? Oh, you poor silly child; I gave you credit for more sense."

That aroused my spirit and I am afraid I said some things to Aunt Sarah that I had not learned in Sunday school. I told her, too, that no power on earth would ever make me doubt my husband, and that she was only wasting her time in trying to do it, that Miss Brewster was a little lady who had too much self respect to encourage the attentions of a married man, even if he offered them, or to speak ill of any one to another person.

"Perhaps you will think differently when you have read this," she replied handing me a note. I took it and read: "My own darling, how much longer is