

from the first,' replied Oliver. 'I am determined to be drawn into no trouble with him. When Alice comes I will tell her, and if she thinks it best, I will go to Williston, although I like it here.'

'He is the one to go away,' said Chester, 'and he ought to go to a little girl's school, where horses, dogs and athletics would not in any way annoy him.'

'There he comes,' said Oliver, 'studying the face of his watch, as usual. One would fancy that he had an important engagement for every quarter hour. Why does he do that?'

'To have you notice the watch. It was given his father as a testimonial for something, and is really fine and valuable. I don't suppose that his people have any idea that he has it here; he told some of the boys that he had to manage pretty shrewdly to get it from the safety vault. The little fob chain is a jewel in itself. Oh, he will manage in some way to exhibit it to you!' And, indeed, he did; but the way came unexpectedly.

It was on the day of Oliver's sister's much-talked-of visit; and as she could only remain a few hours, a lunch was given in her honor in the grove on the bluff overlooking the sea—a charming, picturesque, breezy location near the hall. Really, the Marlier Heights named the school.

She was a tall, graceful young woman, plainly but elegantly dressed, and the lads who had attached themselves to her brother hardly knew which to admire most, the beautiful dog General or the mistress, whose slightest word or motion he obeyed.

'You would like a swim, wouldn't you, General?' said Oliver. 'I tell you, it wouldn't take him long to leap from here into the water for my hat should it blow off. I would let him go, only when he came out he would be an undesirable companion for ladies in white gowns and gentlemen in ducks.'

Just at that instant Julius, who had not before shown himself, came up, conspicuously, as he was always, however he might be dressed, on account of his handsome face; but now in a jaunty suit of blue corduroy, he was like some old Venetian painting.

Now, as the young lady glanced up at him, expecting, of course, to be introduced, he pulled out his watch, looked at it intently, and hurried on, giving General a ruthless and vicious kick in passing.

The intelligent dog, who had never received such an indignity in his life, resented it by a dive at the rude boy before Alice had recovered from her astonishment at the contrast between the youth's appearance and behavior sufficiently to check the high-bred creature by word or look.

'Shame! Shame!' cried the boys. 'Down General,' said Alice in her cool, even voice; but by this time Julius, the churlish offender, had sprung into a small tree near at hand, on the very edge of the cliff, and had curled his legs over a limb out of the angry dog's reach, but his weight swayed the tree out over the precipice, and he clung, a miserable figure, looking as much like an ape as a boy, suspended over the water below, into which his velvet cap was not long in falling.

'Hang on tightly!' commanded one of the teachers.

'What if one of his bad spells should come on?' said one.

'Go for the cap, General,' said Alice, glad of the excuse to get the aroused animal out of the way, as he added much to his tormentor's discomfort.

Away went General, glad enough to make

the plunge, and just then Tommy Hill shouted:

'There goes your watch, Jule! There goes your father's watch into the water!'

Julius gave a howl of distress.

'He will have a bad spell and fall into the sea himself,' cried Chester.

'How are we to get him down?'

'Go for a rope, some one. We can throw it over the tree and pull it back to an upright position. Hang on, Julius!'

Alice, who had not spoken during the general confusion, now looked at her brother, who started for a narrow gap in the shrubbery at the edge of the cliff.

'No woman can go down there,' cried one of the boys. 'There are only a few of us who ever venture,' but the young girl was following her brother's lead, and they both stood on the narrow, shelving beach, as General came swimming back with the cap.

'Now for the watch,' said Alice, patting the beautiful dog's fine head. 'He will find it, if we can make him understand.' She took her own watch from its fob and showed it to him, rubbing it against his nose; then Oliver threw a stone into the deep water somewhere near where the beautiful and valuable watch must have fallen.

'Go for it, General,' he said, and the brave fellow, nothing loath, made the plunge. The first time he came up he brought a stone in his mouth; but Alice talked to him gently, showed him her watch, held it to his ear, and rubbed it against his nose, and told him again to go, and that time he came back looking so delighted and wagging his tail with so much exuberance that Oliver said:

'He must have it this time, sure.' And, indeed, he opened his great mouth, and the beautiful watch was dropped into his mistress's gentle hand.

'It was not even stopped,' she said, holding it to the General's ear, with many words of praise and endearment.

'What an elegant watch for a schoolboy to be carrying so carelessly! And it belongs to General Reading, by the inscription. How came this lad by it?'

So Oliver told the story. 'I have got on as well as I could,' he said. 'The boys all set the example of forbearance.'

'The boy is a terror,' said Alice. 'I should think that he would be better in an institution for incorrigibles than in a school like this. If he has taken such an unexplainable dislike to you, and the school is dominated by him, you would better go home with me this afternoon. A boy who will kick an unoffending animal is not to be trusted. I will seek an interview with the president as soon as we reach the top of the bluff; but how are we to get there?'

'By an easy path, but a longer one. Come this way, please. Really, you do not look very much the worse for our hasty scramble down the cliff, and General is drying off very nicely by the help of sand and sun. I hope that Julius is restored to a place of safety, and that lunch will be ready by the time we reach the hilltop. There, they see us, and Julius is coming along to meet us. You would better keep an eye on General, and don't be too hard on the poor, nervous fellow; he comes to apologize, no doubt.' Alice smiled, and as the lad drew near, she said, quickly:

'You must allow me to apologize for General. I had no idea I was bringing him where his presence would be unwelcome. I think you are the first boy I have ever met who failed to appreciate dogs.'

'Thank you for the watch, and particularly for your kindness,' said Julius. 'I

don't really know what to say in excuse or apology.'

'I would simply say this,' said the young lady: 'If you will overlook the past, I will make a more manly record in the future,' and I would live up to the resolution.'

'I will adopt it, and I will live up to it,' said Julius, and added in his most winning manner: 'I shall now feel very much honored if General will shake hands with me.'

'General's mistress will set the example,' said Alice, offering her hand, and at a glance from her Oliver offered his also; and General, not to be outdone, sat down and extended a paw with so much dignity that the company waiting for them on the bluff, and looking down upon the little episode, waved their hats and gave three cheers for the General.'

'Hereafter you may number me among the dog-fanciers,' said Julius to Chester Carr presently, and Tommy added in a quaint aside: 'Miss Alice and General in an hour have done what Marlier Heights has failed to do in a year; they have made our Julius into a gentleman!'

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