

aback, he had fully intended calling on his way home to see a lady friend, and this proposition threatened to interfere seriously.

"Do Uncle," said the little fellow, looking up pleadingly.

"I suppose we must," his Uncle replied, taking the little upturned anxious face between his hands, "that is, if your mother can spare you for a few days."

"I thought you were coming back in the next boat," said Mrs. Blair, looking surprised.

"No, I am going to call at Mentour coming back," he replied, with a little conscious flush as he saw his sister smile.

"Oh!" she said significantly, "he had better remain at home, then."

"No! no! mother, I won't be any bother; Will I uncle?" and the eager questioning face looked from one to the other imploringly.

"Why Reg," said his grandmother, "when I was a girl I was not allowed to beg so hard."

He looked puzzled a moment, then his face brightened, and he replied in an earnest tone: "Yes, of course, but don't you see that you were a girl, and there is a great deal of difference in bringing up boys and girls." This was said in such a matter-of-fact way that all were compelled to laugh.

"Get him ready Alice," said Mr. Morel, as he turned to go out. "He deserves to go after that."

"I am going Phil," he shouted, springing from the table in a perfect whirlwind of delight. "Oh!" he exclaimed, as he sprawled headlong over the dog, who had been patiently waiting for a stray mouthful, and no doubt wondering in his canine mind how it was that no heed was paid to his wants, as was customary.

"I am going," he said again in a bewildered sort of way, as he picked himself up, and looked doubtfully at Rags, who had retreated behind Mrs. Blair's chair, and was staring at them all in undisguised astonishment, as if he hardly understood the necessity for such rough usage.

"Why Phil's up stairs, you little goose," said Lottie with a smile.

"Is he?" and he bolted for the door, followed by the dog, who was evidently determined to see what all the trouble was about.

"It's all right, Phil," he exclaimed again, as he reached the foot of the stairs; Rags emphatically endorsed this by a decided