

CONCERNS RELATIONS IN GENERAL 7

any men for them to marry here, but there would be the minute they became heiresses. Things happen like that. Take Billium's fingers out of the jam, an' stop Edward the Second—he's goin' for another egg! The creatures now!—always doin' what they shouldn't, so comfortin' after the poor pater an' Uncle Abimelech always doin' things they should, an' becomin' missionaries an' things!" She beamed at our boys with maternal pride and affection, as well she might. Having such a mother they could hardly escape being as remarkable for mental and moral powers as for physical beauty and strength. Sometimes I am ashamed to think that, having two such wonderful sons, I have yet 'ankered after a daughter who should be her mo' er over again. Sophonisba only wanted boys, an' as was right and proper got what she wanted, though her explanation pleased me. "It doesn't matter what a boy looks like," she said, "even if they take after me; but a girl—— she'd never get married. I am the exception that proves the rule."

"What rule?" I asked, for I could not follow her meaning.

"That miracles still happen," she returned.

"Uncle Percy will wonder how I did it," she now observed.

"Did what?"

"Not only got a husband, but a rich one and a dear. People always laugh. Sometimes they say, 'Oh, well it's dogged as done it.'"

"Laugh at you marrying me?" I asked with a sigh, for I am a regular old fogey, years older than my fair young wife.

"No, at—well, what does it matter what they laugh at? They laugh best who laugh last, and we can do that all right! There isn't a happier, more devoted