

Maids in a Market Garden

amongst his dear ones. He is bringing home all that is left of his liver, a considerable amount of money, amassed in the discharge of his duty to his Government, and a step-mamma for Marjory and I. We are told that she is of dark complexion and wears a nose-ring, but rumour is so uncertain. It may be only a gold button, like that of the Brown-Gingall's ayah. Let us hope for the best. Papa is charmed to hear of Marjory's marriage and mine. He says he had almost given up all hope of ever getting us taken off his hands."

They are all talking together, they all are merry and hopeful. Yet sometimes a glance will stray to Clara's empty place at table. That she may soon fill it again is the heart-felt hope of all. The English spring is sweet, but too cold for the blossom that rude winter pinched so sharply. Clara is at Mentone, in the charge of the faithful nurse who tended her in the desperate illness that followed the day of the great storm; who, little by little, raised her from the brink of the grave to which she seemed to be so surely sinking, and who has been throughout her tedious convalescence her comforter and friend. They