"Patterns! Do you think I can waste my time drawing nonsense for He liked to see her put up her lips to

"You are very rude," she said, flushas yours is to you. But I can draw trunk held all her possessions.

Then, before he could offer terms of poace, she was gone, darting through "Find her! If she is above ground." motion habitual to her. She was one never ungraceful or rude.

"What a child she is," he thought, "in spite of her hard, hard life, and her nineteen years. I will draw her some patterns to-day, though she draws much better ones herself. My genius does not lie in the line of art em-

broidery." While this good resolution was in process of formation, Minna Homer, for whose benefit it was made, was flitting about Mrs. Milman's rose garden, his mother's guest. gathering only the choicest treasures of But one morning Hugh met Hannah.

Mrs. Milman's garden had been a said: paradise to the girl since she was a toddling baby, who grasped the strong it, the poor dear was druv away." fingers of ten-year old Hugh, and was made free of the butter-cups and daisies on the lawn. As she grew older, and her life burdens grew heavier, the the cottage before the old gentleman gurden became a rest and recreation. was six hours in the grave. She's a Her father, the drawing master of the Asheville Academy, had been Hugh's ing it or not. She as much as told first instructor in the art which became his life work. It was not long before the pupil knew all this master could teach him, and studied in New York,

with little Minna He left her a child of ten years old,

two drifted back into the good fellow- here the old woman looked keenly into ship of childish days, teasing each other, sympathizing fully with each other, often gravely talking heart to heart, "You fetch her."

"Tell me where she is, and if she

"Ungrateful child!"

"Indeed, I am not ungrateful, Hugh; to his loss, still let it influence his whole life less and took up his old pursuits stance, are so closely grouped that they cannot be embroidered? Now, I want a design for a table cover, and this would do if you had spread it out into a border, with four corner groups."

"I see. Have you some paper?"

"Plenty. And my colors are on the table."

"I we trunk to want you to see Miss Carpenter. She has a face for an artist to rave over."

"My raving days are over." Hugh

She was very fond of billina, and many a dainty dish found its way from the great house to the invalid in the little cottage. Mr. Homer was not so well pleased. His disease had affected his mind just far enough to make him excessively irritable and exacting. He fretted if Minna left him for an hour, and it was only when he fell into deep sleep, as he did often, that Minna, if she had no pressing work, could steal away for an hour, sure that Hannah, her servant, would call her if her father wakened.

It was a sad, over-tasked life for one It was a sad, over-t

so young, for it requires a great deal of
He felt that she avoided him when so young, for it requires a great deal of embroidery and water-color work to support three people, and Hannah was needed to help lift and nurse the invalid, as well as for household duties, that would have taken time Minna could use to better advantage.

Still, she was happy, always cheery and bright until Ella Milman came to Asherville to visit her Aunt Martha, and to further an old family hope that

and to further an old family hope that charming.

"Never! I would as soon marry a "Never! I would as soon marry a fall-groupen! I love you, and to further an old family hope that ahe and Hugh would one day marry each other. There was some question of property that made it desirable to unite the family fortunes in this way; but there was no engagement as yet.—Somehow Hugh did not fancy his cousin Ella. She was handsome, in a atrıking style, a brunette with glowing color and big black eyes. But she offended Hugh's artistic sense, and made his studio a place of torment to him, till, driven to desperation by her persistent courting, he pleaded urgent business in New York and ignominiously field, to join a party who were going to camp out, sketch and shoot in Virginia. They were out of the reach of

mail communication, unless they rode twenty-miles on horseback for letters, and being young and careless, they made but few such excursions.

Thus it happened that when Hugh returned to the post-office town, the letter from his mother which he found there was three weeks old. After dwelling on various family matters, "You will be pained, I know, to

hear bad news of our little Minna." Here the reader of the letter becam conscious of a suffocating throbbing of his heart, while his eyes grew dim. It was a moment or two before he could miration. Hugh, being an artist, adread the following sentences: anired. But, being also a man, he said,

"Old Mr. Homer died suddenly

five days ago, and after the funeral Minna left her home, without giving any clew to her whereabouts. She left a note full of touching gratitude for me, but made no mention of you in it. She took the New York train and you may remember her father rent-My work is as much value to me ed the cottage furnished, so that he gratterns myself, since you are ill-natu-know how hopeless a task it is search for any one in New York, but

"Find her ! If she is above ground the low French window with a quick I will find her!" Hugh thought, foldmotion habitual to her. She was one ing the letter. He knew in this terri-of the few who could be quick, even ble blow what he had not before susabrupt, in movement and speech, yet pected, that Minna Homer was the one woman in the world to him. In High looked after her with laughing their pleasant intercourse she seem to him like a dear little sister, a pet, a plaything. Losing her, he knew that he loved her with all his great loyal heart.

He went as fast as steam could carry him to Asheville. His mother could tell him no more than she had already written. Ella was sulky and taunted him with the interest he felt in a nobody, until they quarreled, as far as a gentleman could quarrel with a lady,

In answer to his eager questioning she

"Well, Mr. Hugh, if you will hear "How? Who could drive her away?"

"Well, sir, it was Miss Ella come to brazen piece, whether you like my say Miss Minna she was trying to catch you for a husband, and said you had been engaged to her since you was a boy, and it was as bad of Miss Minna to London, Paris, Rome and Vienna, make love to you as if you was a markeeping up a correspondence ried man. I can't tell you all, but Miss Minna was as white and quiet as if she was forty-years old, and she g long curls and short skirts; he | told Miss Ella she would not be insulted returned in seven years to find her a in her own house. You'd never a' suswinsome maiden, supporting her paralyzed father by the pretty water color

Miss Ella was gone. Then she broke panels, plates, or other fancies of down, poor dear, and-well, I'm not rashion, or by embroidery that was going to tell you what she said, but she just left Asheville, and she'll never come back, Mr. Hugh, unless "—and

often gravely talking heart to heart, the first control of the day when there of a first control of the evening of the day when the evening of t

Minna was still supporting herself as flitting through her head, Hugh presented himself at the cottage with a roll of patterns.

"They are lovely, lovely!" Minna with the emporiums for her dainty work, finding no trace of her. He neglected his work, his friends, all that had made his life pleasant, and grew pale and haggard, while month after month rolled by till two years were over, and Minna still missing. In that time, however, Hugh, never reconciled

"Plenty. And my colors are on the table."

"You raving days are over," Hugh obediently adopting suggestions; Minns delightedly seeing her ideas selaborated and improved. The grand stocess of the evening was a border of grasses, field daisies and butterflies, irregular in design, excepting in so far as it was the same width all round, and the corners the same size.

"It is too lovely!" said Minns. "One will not tire of working or seeing a repetition of the same thing over and over. I am so much obliged to you, Hugh."

After this there were many horrs spent at the studio, or in Mrs. Milman's drawing-room, in designing and drawing patterns for Minna's work, until she declared she could not use them all in years of work, and would be confused by her wealth of choice.

Mrs. Milman looked on smilingly.

She was very fond of Minns, and many a dainty dish found its way from the great house to the invalid in the little

Zaw.

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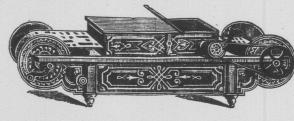
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