

"It is all over," said Frank, going up to her and affectionately laying his hand upon her arm. "He is laid in his last resting-place, until the resurrection morn."

"Dear Uncle," said Alice, "much as we shall miss him, I would not wish him back."

"There is the chair that he used to sit in while you read to him," said Charlie, his eyes filling with tears.

"Never mind speaking of those things now, Charlie," said Frank. "Alice, you look so cold, and no wonder; this room is very chilly. Come into the library, where there is a good fire, and I will go and see if Helen will come down. There is a rumor in town that I would like you to hear."

Although it was the middle of May the weather was very cold, and Alice shivered as she drew a chair to the bright coal fire.

"Now," said Frank, when the four were seated around the hearth, "that we are together, I want to tell you a report that I heard a day or two ago in the city. It is said that about a year and a half ago Uncle went security for Mr. Bertram for a large amount, and that just before his illness he lent him a large sum of money as well."

"That was so like Uncle," remarked Helen, interrupting her brother, "always helping some person."

"Yes," said Alice, abstractedly, for she was taking another view of the case, "do you think that this is likely to be true, Frank?"

"I do not know, but we shall know to-morrow, when the will is read. I would not have mentioned it to-day only to prepare you in case it should be true. Do you not remember that just before he died, he asked us if Mr. Bertram were solvent?"

"Yes."

"His having done so inclines me to think that there must be some truth in the rumor. It is also said that anxiety about this brought on his illness."

"I don't believe it," said Charlie indignantly. "Uncle would never let money trouble him. Besides he was rich enough to go security for Mr. Bertram and have plenty left."

"I hope so, Charlie."

When Mr. Clement's affairs were inves-

tigated his young relations learned, what every person in the city had known for a week, that all he possessed, and more too, would be needed to satisfy the claims of Mr. Bertram's creditors. This was a great disappointment to them, but by none of them was it so fully realized as by Frank, who saw himself obliged to give up the study of his favorite profession, medicine, and at once seek for remunerative employment.

"Alice," he said to his sister, as he met her and Charlie about a fortnight after his uncle's death, coming on the city road to meet him, "I have just had an offer of a situation in a store; and as situations are scarce, I think I had better accept it at once. The salary is small, but it is the best I can do."

"And I have the promise of six music pupils," said Alice. "Now, if we could get a boarding-house that would be convenient for both, we could move at once."

"Mr. Arnot mentioned a boarding-house that he thought would suit us; but when I looked at it I could not bring myself to go in and ask the terms. It was such a dull, dreary-looking house on a narrow street."

"If it is within our means and convenient to our duties, we must not mind its appearance, brother. You know we can carry sunshine in our hearts, and that will brighten every place for us."

"It was not for myself I was thinking, nor yet for Charlie. He is a boy, and will like the excitement and noise of the city; besides we must try and keep him at school, and that will take up his attention. But it was for you and Helen. You will miss this beautiful place so much."

Before Alice replied, she looked up at the maple, elm, and oak trees which lined the road on either side, and which had just opened their leaves; every tint of their green was familiar to her. She looked down through their foliage at the river, bright with the slanting rays of a deep orange sunset, then away in the distance to where a white gate led into a serpentine avenue of maple trees, at the end of which stood the only earthly home she knew.

"Miss it," she repeated, slowly, "our beautiful home, and the pure free air! We