

"I think it would be a relief. She is used to my wandering nature—paternal inheritance, I suppose. But how could it be managed? Would Frau Kercher object, and would I crowd?"

So they planned, happy in their arrangements; Marjorie full of doubts, but Erica of silent approval.

They would use the one large room as reception and music-room, and Marjorie would give up one of the two smaller ones leading from it, which she called her "d-1."

Frau Kercher was consulted, for Erica wanted no obstacle in the way of the successful accomplishment of her plans, and would be ready to answer all objections and secure approval.

"I be so glad! I be pleased to have both you!" was the good old German woman's hearty acceptance of Erica, and her comely face beamed a welcome so genial that Erica could have embraced her on the spot.

"What a delightful afternoon, Marjorie, and how much we have accomplished," and