strangers know what good 'uns they all were If I had spoken, there would have been both bell ringin and bonfires I promise ye! Would there not?

there not?
Minnie's sweet little face had flushed and paled alternately many times during old Thomas's recital.

At last she said, softly, Did the people love papa so much?

Ay, did they! He was so kind, so gentle-mannered, everybody as was in trouble in the house, or on the estate, always went to Marster Harold

I don't quite think grandpapa should have been so angry, Thomas, then; because pape was grown up, of course, and had sense; but I daresay that grandpapa is sorry now; and I do love grandpa so very much.

That's right, missy. In course you do; and the Squire loves his little grand-daughter, too, is as plain to be seen as sunlight. And as for Madam, why she will love the very

sound of your little feet, bless you!

The old man whiped his eyes, and spoke most heartily, his kindly face; beaming on the child.

Miss Minnie! Miss Minnie!

Where are you?

Dear me I said Minnie, it might be Mrs. Vicar's visiting day; that always puts nurse in a fidget. I'm here, Mary, I'm here; dear, what a fuss!

Thomas gave a little laugh.

Do'ant ye be hurryin' of yourself, missy, for none on 'em! he said, in a whisper.

Blest if she ain't Squire's own moral i he thought, as he saw the quick little frown and the rising colour.

I want you, dear, panted Mary Two visitors have called—Lady Maxwell and Miss Maxwell—and

they have asked to see you.

Mary gently hurried Minnie to her room, and brushed out her long, beautiful hair, whilst Minnie very deliberately washed her hands.

I never do anything in a hurr Mary, she said, in a most self-possessed manner; if you do, Nurse says, you are sure to have to do it all over again.

Well, said Mary, rather tartly, if this nurse of yours is such a Solomon and Queen of Sheba, I think she might have sent you with more clothes, Miss Minnie! That's my opinion, and carts and horses couldn't drag no other out of me!

Minnie made no reply, but took Mary's hand, and went down to the drawing-room.

Now go in and behave very prettily, dear, Mary whispered, as they passed through the hall.

Minnie drew up her little figure to its utmost possible height; a scornful expression curled her short lip, which Mary at once noticed, and she added quickly.

Of course, you always do, Miss Minnie, but these ladies are very old friends of your grandmamma, and a bit stiffish, added Mary, confidentially.

When Minnie entered the room she saw two ladies. One was matronly, with pretty, silvery, wavy hair, and large, dark eyes. She smiled kindly, and held out her hand, as the child made a quaint little curtsey at the door.

The other blady Was much younger, tall, elegant, and handsome. Her features were refined. and her eyes were remarkable, not only for their depth of violet colour, but for their expression, which was strangely haughty, although softened by the long black lashes, which were a striking contrast to the bright gold of her hair, which rippled in rich masses above her white Greek brow. There was a scornful expression about her mouth which was not pleasing to any close observer of indicated character.

She looked at Minnie through a single eye-glass, then smiled faintly, with a little nod.

Not a bit like Harold, she said to her mother.

N-n-o! yet she reminds me very strongly of some one. Whom I cannot say at this moment.

(To be continued.)

During the first quarter of the present year spots on the sun have been more numerous, but of smaller size than last year at the same time, and as before, the maximum of fa-culæ have coincided with a minimum of spots.

DIED.

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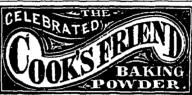
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