

*(Enter Miss Fairfax, with a nurse.)*

MISS FAIRFAX. Are my nieces here?

FANNIE and JUNE. Yes, Aunt. Good afternoon, Aunt.

*(Dobson places chair and exit.)*

MISS F. It does not surprise me to find you in this condition—it does not surprise me in the least. Still, I think that in my illness, when I am obliged to depend entirely on strangers, you would try to show a little unselfishness, a little gratitude. Here, you have been four years members of my household, entirely dependent on my generosity, and have you ever given the slightest return? I am not obliged to take care of my brother's children. Pray, what would become of you if you were to forfeit my good will? The position of shop girls, factory hands, is not an enviable one. *(Pause.)* Well, it was not this that I had to say to you, but it bears on the subject. Your cousin, Charlotte Irwin, is coming here to-day on a visit, and since there is no one but you two to entertain her, I hope you will try to behave yourselves. You will be excused from all duties about the house during her stay, as I have hired a new maid. Your cousin will arrive this afternoon,—about five, the telegram says, does it not, nurse?

NURSE *(consulting telegram.)* It says she is to drive from Starville, and may be here before five.

MISS F. That's true. Go now, and have Dobson put on your best gowns, and tell Kitty I wish tea served in this room.

*(Exeunt Fanny and June.)*

*(To Nurse)* And you, I wish you would inquire exactly when the train arrives. *(Exit Nurse.)* Another of my helpless, reckless relations thrown upon me for hospitality! It seems the whole family of Fairfax must have plotted beforehand to squander their portions, and then apply to me for a share of mine. First, the father of these children! Nothing would satisfy him but he must invest £2,000 in Colorado silver mines. Water got into the mines, and he lost it all. I don't know how it is, my enterprises always prosper! And then when I blamed him for his loss, he demanded how could