

in hopes that something would interfere with the much-talked of journey, but to her surprise Erica greeted her return one afternoon with,

"Marjorie, it is decided at last ! If not to-morrow, then in a few weeks, we are to cross the ocean."

Poor Marjorie ! The hardest struggle was yet to come, and as she felt in all its terrible force the bitterness of the contest, she almost feared the result. It was impossible under the conditions imposed for Marjorie to undertake such a voyage, and all its joys and anticipations rose up to tempt her by their imaginings.

Erica continued: "Aunt Marian and Jack arranged the party. First, Aunt Marian is going because a change will be beneficial; Marie is going because it is the Old Country, and she dotes on all things ancient, you know; and Jack is going because he is a full-fledged M. D., and uncle promised him a trip as a reward for his hard study. I am going—I should be last, but I am too excited for grammar or politeness—because the doctor has ordered an ocean voyage. Papa is going be-