

CHAPTER VI.

CHARLEY CLEMENT did not allow very much time to elapse before he availed himself of Miss Louisa Forest's permission to call again, and by degrees Nero got quite accustomed to him, and so did all the rest of the family. Of course, the epidemic had passed away by that time, and things were beginning to adjust themselves again after it.

The engagement was not a very long one either, as speedy promotion in the bank came to Mr. Clement, owing to the departure of so many of the clerks in the prevailing panic, and before very long he was "in a position to marry." It was at the house of the newly-married couple that I spent some of my happiest hours while in Edgevale.

They were rather reticent on the subject of the epidemic, and Mrs. Clement always coloured up at the mention of it, especially if her brother Joe happened to be present, while her husband would laugh and turn the conversation.

It was not always an easy thing to turn the conversation if Mr. Temple were holding forth, for he was never tired of discussing the trouble from its cause, which he attributed to earthquakes and not to microbes, to its effects, which he declared ought to be as beneficial to all as it had been to him. He generally closed these long harangues with :—

"And that's how I came to marry Sophia."

He intends to be prepared if it should come again, and to that end keeps himself in a state of aggressive truthfulness, which is very trying to any one not in a robust state of health. He is a very kind husband in his way, but still Mrs. Temple has a good deal to put up