

The Study Girls' Birthday Party.

So cleverly had the girls kept their secret, and made their preparations, that I had no idea that such a thing as a party was "in the wind" until the evening of the 28th, when a little pink note invited me to be present "in the Dining-Hall at half-past seven on Saturday evening, Nov. 29th, at a party given in honor of Miss Hart's birthday." Besides surprising and delighting me, this little note also explained why, on one or two occasions within the last week, I had not been welcomed to the study with that warmth and spontaneity one loves to see in one's friends, and even on one occasion was lured out of the room with the promise of some chocolate!

Saturday morning's breakfast at the "grown-ups" table was rather unsatisfactory, regarded as a "meal," but at least one person was entirely satisfied. Out of a mountain of varied colored tissue paper emerged dainty collarettes, sachets, photograph books and frames, etc., so that the table quite resembled a flourishing fashionable bazaar.

All day long a stern guard watched the study door, through which the uninitiated were strictly forbidden to pass. All day mysterious pounding and hammering was heard on the other side of the wall, while the excited chattering and giggling from within made the outsiders long to enter. But in vain; even on neutral ground in the hall, they were too absorbed to pay any attention to us.

Strictly on the stroke of half-past seven, the "grown-ups" presented themselves in the dining hall, where they had nothing to complain of the cordiality of their many hostesses. The thin layer of ice so often to be observed at large functions, was here only noticeable by its absence, and soon the whole party was merrily dancing a good old fashioned polka. The entertainment committee had to cater for a variety of tastes, but this difficulty was solved satisfactorily by mingling dancing and games throughout the evening. "Spin the Platter"—"Flower Basket"—"Family Coach" followed one another in quick succession; in "Musical Chairs" a grown-up who should have known better, grieved her friends by selfishly holding on to the last chair. The game of pinning a tail on a tailless donkey showed that grown-ups and children alike were painfully ignorant of the laws of anatomy, and a dainty prize was awarded to a small child who succeeded in pinning it on in the most orthodox manner.

When the announcement was made that "supper was served in the study," excitement ran high! At last we were to enter the forbidden room. But where was the somewhat scholastic study we were all so familiar with? Vanished, and in its place was a perfect fairyland, lit up with festoons of Chinese lanterns, which shed a soft pink glow on the walls now decorated with big sprays of sword ferns and graceful ivy; on the dainty white curtains and tempting "cosy corner;" on the mantelpiece, now a vision of pale green silk, green ferns