

whose ripened fruit was anxiously anticipated by the merry youthful band that thronged that happy school room.

How the children enjoyed their hour of recreation; how they bounded up that sloping hill, and ran to and fro on the grassy lawn. With what merry shouts, with the glee of hearts untouched by sorrow, while often standing at the casement, beholding their enjoyment, and sharing in their pleasure, was their youthful and dearly-loved teacher, with her ever patient and winning smile, that lent an irresistible charm to her thoughtful and pensive countenance.

And Alice looked very thoughtful now, as she sat at her desk, revolving in her mind the possibility or probability of settling some of those troublesome little bills, which, lying in a secret drawer of her *escritoire*, had often of late disturbed her peace of mind. Not that she was reckless or extravagant in her expenditure; but her mother's very small income was little more than sufficient to pay the rent of the dwelling they occupied, and the thousand and one household items, which must be met, were all depending on the small quarterly fees she obtained from her pupils.

Of late, too, an epidemic, somewhat fatal, had diminished their numbers; her mother, long an invalid, seemed for the past few weeks to be growing much feebler, necessitating the constant attendance of a physician, and her failing appetite craved those little delicacies which tell so hardly upon the scanty purse; so little marvel is it, if Alice's gentle