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THE AYLMERS; OR, FAMILY MANAGEMENT. (From the N. Y. Metropolitan Record.)

What can be the reason Harriet and Miss Williamson are so late in returning from their walk ?' said Mrs. Aylmer to her husband, as they were sitting one November evening in the comfortable library. 'What can they be about ?' continued the lady, an additional shade of gloom passing over her face, as she watched the ap proaching shadows of night darkening more and more the room in which they sat. ' That girl Harriet keeps the house in a continual state of agitation ; I never know what it is to have a moment's peace with her mad cap pranks."

Mr. and Mrs. Aylmer were people of rank and fortune, who resided in the south of England ; they had married late in life, and the result of their union were two children, a boy and girl. Mrs. Aylmer was chiefly remarkable for ner capabilities of putting herself into terrific fits of ill temper, which alarmed and subjugated all around her to fulfit all her behests, and for ruling with strict and unflinching authority over her respectable husband. Mr. Aylmer's principal peculiarities were an excessive love of good English dinners, and long, comfortable naps after them. Charles Aylmer, the son and heir, was a sickly, spoiled boy of fourteen. He was illtempered, selfish, cowardly, and mischievousthe darling of his mother, who remitted in his favor the uninterrupted severity she showed to all else-the heir of the property, and the sovereign of the household. He was chiefly remarkable for telling tales of his sister ; eating a surprising quantity of cakes and sweetmeats : a great love of tyranny, united to a strong sense of personal danger. He had a tutor who, for one bundred pounds per annum, with a considerable number of physical comforts, was willing to take charge of an unwilling pupil and a disagreeable boy. Harriet Aylmer was filteen, a fine tall girl, very handsome, very high spirited. very clever, and very disobedient, passionate, and mischievous; she had always shown great aptitude for teasing and laughing at her brother (for which she invariably got punished), and for on him a glance of supreme contempt, 'your thorities. Her character was rediemed from its your family put together.' At this moment orphan son of his dearest friend, whom, in the Harriet was able to leave her bed, and then she to do so. As for Mansfield, he is a most amiable, was very much paler and thinner. In the mean- benevolent, and liberal-minded young man; and the source of any family of his own, he had adopted was very much paler and thinner. In the mean- benevolent, and liberal-minded young man; and deep and strong powers of affection, which few closed, and her whole appearance showing she had the power of calling forth, and by great had made up her mind to bear the storm hoverkindness and benevolence towards those worse ing over her bead with dogged indifference. It off than herself for the luxuries of life. She is needless to repeat her mamma's address to her, was neither her mother's darling, nor her father's the specimen we have given of her eloquence beir ; and as they had some floating ideas of the will show the style of it. Harriet listened unnecessity of both rewards and punishment in the moved and unsoftened. ' Well.' said her moeducation of children, they solved the difficulty | ther, stopping at last for want of breath to go on, by applying the rewards to Charles and the punishments to Harriet. Poor Harriet, she was no one's pet! She teased her prother, disturbed her papa's naps, grumbled at her mother's partiality, caricatured the tutor, disobeyed and disliked her governess, held Mrs. Jones, ber inamma's officious maid, in supreme contempt, and was disliked by one balf her friends, and continually reproved by the other ; the only persons who loved her undividedly were her little dog Fido, the gardener's daughter, silly Jane, she went up to her, and, taking her hand, she snd most of the servants, who pitied and excused | said, ' Come, Miss Williamson, let us be friends ; ber.

a search instantly made for the delinquent, far and near. Some one thought of going into her room, where she was found, sitting quietly by the window. By this time the unfortunate governess was released from her situation, and had returned home, with the determination of not staying another day with such a pupil .--Pale with anger, she rushed into Mrs. Aylmer's

presence.

'Madam - Mrs. Aylmer-' she gasped, as soon as she found words.

erness to a tree in the adjoining wood. A ser-

want was immediately sent to release her, and

"I know all," interrupted Mrs. Aylmer, wavng her oft with her hand. ' Pray do not repeat things so very unpleasant for a mother's ear ; but I must say, Miss Williamson, you must have your pupil under very indifferent command, for her to get to such a pitch.'

'Madam,' again gasped the ill-treated governess.

But it was in vain for her to speak; Mrs. Aylmer would not listen to her.

'Well, then, Mrs. Aylmer,' she at last said, you will perhaps have the kindners to hear me when I say that, sorry as I am to leave a house where I have experienced so much kindness and lady like treatment, 1 am obliged to decline the bonor of any longer conducting the education of your daughter."

Spare yourself the trouble,' interrupted Mrs. Aylmer again, with a haughty glance, ' for I have long thought of removing Miss Aylmer from your care, and the events of this night have hastened my determination.' She rung the bell. Robert, tell Mrs. Jones to bring Miss Aylmer bere.'

' My dear, shall we not dine first ?' interposed Mr. Aylmer, with a timid voice. (He had been sitting for some time looking on in great annoyance at the bustle and turmoil going on around him.) 'It is past seven o'clock, and the dinner will be spoiled,' he continued, fidgetting in his chair, from a mixture of fear at his wile's anger at the interruption and dread of the dinner being over-cooked. His faint appeal was of no

' Mr. Aylmer, may I beg of you once more not to interfere ? 1 believe,' said she, casting what have you got to say for yourself ! Speak -are you deaf.? 'No, I wish I were,' muttered Harriet. sullenly; 'I have not anything to say; I know if I were to explain, it would do me no good-1 should not get justice done to me."

duct. The next day, Harriet was conveyed in a close chariot to a school some fifty miles off, celebrated for the strict seclusion and severe discipline in which the young ladies were kept .---Mrs. Aylmer, still burning with anger against her daughter, gave such a character of her to Miss Lewis, the head of the establishment, that into her house with almost the same fear and trepidation as she would had an Ogre,a Jack Sheppard, or an officer of the Guards, with a Lovelace kind of reputation, been presented to her as boarder. However, seeing Miss Aylmer was of rank and fortune, and that much money, and, perchance, much credit (if she could succeed in changing her into a propriety loving young lady) was to be gained by her admittance, she consented to receive her under certain severe restrictions, to all of which Mrs. Aylmer consented, and came away perfectly satisfied that had introduced her daughter to such discipline pressed it, f and regret the home she now a pennyworth of bread.'

despised." Miss Lewis was stiff, starched, and a decorum worshipper. She had no idea of im- lation; she thought with terror of all the donshe did her best to teach them never to behave dancing, singing, piano, barp, drawing, French, Italian, all in a young lady like manner, and that they should have an elementary knowledge of all the other branches of education; that they should make a curtsy on entering a room, and another when they went out, and call each Medcall retired to her room; Harriet's conduct other 'dear' when they spoke to one another; above all, that they should not know the meanwere so unfortunate as to have this knowledge, they should appear not to know it, and be particularly incensed at the mention of the institution of marriage. Such characteristics, she considered, made a perfect young lady. The second act in this drama of family man-

agement now opens.

Mrs. Medcall was the widow of a naval offias his son. Mrs. Medcalf was the sister of Mr. while, Mrs. Medcalf left her to the attendance Aylmer, but owing to the great difference be- of her trusty maid, and set out herself for Ayltween her character and that of her sister in law, mer House. She exerted all her eloquence in and also to the disapprobation she continually expressed of the manner in which her nephew her whole stock of patience in listening to Mrs. very little of the children, but had a general impression that they were very spoilt and disagreeable. One dark and stormy night in the month of January, she was sitting over her tea, musing on the approaching college vacation of her ward. William Mansfield-whom she longed to see as much as if he were her own son-when she heard a voice as the hall door begging to see her .--There seemed to be some dispute upon the subject, so she rung the bell to know who was there. when the drawing room door opened, and there entered with the servant the muffled up figure of a young girl. Mrs. Medcalf started ; she knew the face, but could not at once recollect it, as the stranger advanced and threw up her veil. "Aunt Margaret !' at last said our old friend, Harriet Aylmer. ' My niece Harriet !' said Mrs. Medcalf, in utter astonishment; 'what has brought you here ?' and she motioned to the servant to leave to perform. the room. 'What is the matter ?-- what brings you here ?' she again repeated in an anxious voice. 'I am come to as ask you for a home and for a refuge from those who persecute me,' said Harriet, with a burning cheek and almost menacing tone; ' and if you refuse it me I go away, and no one will ever be troubled with me again." Mrs. Medcalf saw she was dreadfully excited. Sit down, my poor girl,' said she, soothing, 'and tell me what has happened to you-you look dreadfully fatigued and excited ; I will do any thing I can for you. Do not be frightened." she continued, observing the sofa shake under aunt thought she would almost fall into convul-'These are the first tears I have shed since I words to utter; 'and I was nearly desperate,

thought any thing would be better; and I you had refused, I would have gone and killed myself,' said she with vehemence ; ' I am sure 1 would. I had but a few pence in my pocket, as my money and jewels were taken from me, 'as would make her know herself,' as she ex- and I have walked fifty miles, sometimes buying

Mrs Medca'f shuddered with horror at this rebuing ber pupils with the genuire feeling of gers her niece's violent temper, and the injudikindness they ought to have for each other; but cious treatment to which she had been subjected, might have brought her. She was too sensible ungenteely to each other, and always to be a woman to reason with her on her conduct that polite and young lady-like. She expected | night, so with soothing words and kind promises from her young ladies that they should know she conducted her to her bed; she could scarcely refrain from tears when she saw her swollen and blistered feet, which she not bathed and bandaged, and giving her a composing draught, left her to seek that repose of which she stood so much in need. It was a late hour that night, before Mrs.

occupied her most anxious thoughts. She was a very superior woman, both in feeling and ining of the word love, or, at all events, if they tellect; and she resolved, if possible, to take charge of her niece. She wrote an earnest and solemn letter to the parents, stating that Harriet was under her roof, and another to Miss Lewis, acquainting her that her former pupil was in safety and that she need take no further measures for her recapture.

The next morning the aunt went into her niece's room; she found her just awake, very cer, who on his deathbed had bequeathed to her unwell from fatigue and excitement. She sent the color mounting to Harriet's temples, while a modest income, and the guardianship of the for medical assistance; it was a week before the tears suffused her eyes-'I should be sorry representing Harriet's case to her parents, and instead of remembering all I had told you of his and niece were brought up, she held very little Aylmer's animadversions in return. By dint of intercourse with Aylmer House. She knew prophecies of shame and disgrace to the family, if Harriet, by unrelenting rigor, was driven to extremity, and confident promises of amendment it kindness was shown to her, she prevailed upon the mother to give her up to her charge. This Mrs. Aylmer was the more readily induced to do, in despite of her jealousy of her sister-inlaw's interference in family affairs, as she felt that Harriet's high spirit was too much for even her passionate temper to curb. She consoled herself for granting the request by remembering that her darling Charles would be only too happy to get rid of his sister for ever. After making, therefore, as many objections as she could muster together, she graciously acceded, and Mrs. Medcalf returned content with her mission.

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bad in a frolic seized upon and bound her gov- firmness, till called up to account for her con- reputations to school. There she had had to chievous vixen, and whose reputation had been undergo every kind of disgrace and contumely ; more than usually severely handled, as she had she was not allowed to associate with the other no one to defend her. It was therefore with no girls, nor were they permitted even to speak to pleasurable feelings that he looked forward to her; she was always kept apart from every one, having his tele-a-tete conversations with his and every night was sent for into Miss Lewis's second mother, whom he loved most affectionriom, whire she was accused of every possible ately, disturbed by her presence. When he did fault and misdemeanor, and exhorted to repent see her, he was very much surprised to see so of them. Tales of her misconduct at home were tall and striking a looking girl; and could scarcethis lady looked upon the entrance of Harriet daily circulated among the girls, as warnings to ly believe that one who seemed so likely to grow avoid the like ; and, in fact, every humiliation up into a lovely and elegant woman could really and mortification were showered upon her. 'I be so odious as she had been described. But. was treated as a felon, and as if I had alas ! these first favorable impressions soon wore the feelings of a telon, and not those of a yourg off. Harriet was very apt to take antipathies. girl like the others,' said Harriet, with flushed and she instantly disliked and felt affronted at the cheeks; 'so at last I could bear it no longer; I supercilious and slim collegian, who seemed to wish to keep her at such a distance, and to look watched and watched till I made my escape, and with contempt on all she did and said. She was. came to see if you would take me in ; and if besides, very shy, and consequently awkward. never being accustomed to see strangers. She was at one moment silly and bashful, at another rudely familiar; and she was not at the slightest pains to conceal that she looked upon his room as better than his company, to use her own more expressive than elegant phrase. As for William, he was disappointed to see his solitary interviews with Mrs. Medcolf intruded on; and, we are afraid, looked upon Harriet as little better than a disagreeable interloper.

> It was with these sentiments they parted, and Mrs Medcalf felt William's disappointment as not the least of her trials, for he had been accustomed to look upon her house as his undivided home .---She was sorry also to see two persons, who were likely often to meet under her roof, and whom she felt would soon be equally dear to her, show so little inutual good will.

The morning after be left, while Harriet and her aunt was sitting at work together, Harriet opened the conversation by observing, 'I am glad William Mansfield is gone; he is a very disagreeable, proud, concerted man. I wonder, aunt, you are so very lond of him.'

"Even granting that all you say of my poor William is correct, and which I should be deeply grieved to believe,' answered her aunt smiling, I should perhaps still love him. You know I love you, and many people sav you are very disacreeable, proud and conceited; but I did not think so,' she continued more gravely, observing showed either delicacy of feeling or gratitude to me, in gratifying your own prejudiced opinions, worth. You behaved to him with great rudeness and unkindness, which I do not think you would have done towards one whom you know I look upon as a dear and beloved son, nor do you show generosity in speaking ill of him to me when I am overwhelmed with sorrow at his departure.' Mrs. Medcalf looked so seriously displeased that Harriet was miserable ; she burst into a flood of tears. 'Ah! I behave ill to every one,' said she, as she hastily left the room. The lesson was severe. but necessary; it never was repeated, nor again called for. Two years have passed since this little scene. Harriet is eighteen, a clever, accomplished. talented girl, exceedingly lovely and graceful; perhaps there is too much fire in the rapid glance of her rich hazel eye, for the strict proprietychart of a fashionable young lady ; but no one. even Miss Lewis herself, could fail to admire her open brow, beaming look, and the iogenuous smile of her half opened lips, showing the pearly teeth beneath : she was Mrs. Medcalf's greatest Time passed on. Mrs. Medcalf knew she source of happiness and pride; she introduced Harriet, love is a faint term to express all she felt for her aunt : she knew she owed not merely her present happiness, but perhaps even her exexpress her feelings, than to say she flourished in her presence and languished in her absence, and never felt thoroughly happy but in her company. Harriet had also been home several times; and though these visits had at first been hard to bear. no self-control now was too difficult for her to undertake to gratify her aunt. All the energy she had once shown to commit mischief and folly was now expended in obtaining control over herself and giving pleasure to this generous friend. She had succeeded so well by her patience and gentleness, that even her lady mother was softened in her favor, and graciously contemplated . to do honor to the family name; but Charles About this time William Mansfield came to expressed such decided disapprobation against this step, that, fortunately for the aunt and niece, the scheme was abandoned; as for her papa, he tment. He knew Mrs. Medcalf had the dis- loved her as much as he was capable of doing,

Now that we have introduced the Aylmers to our readers, we will continue our tale where we left it off. in the old library.

'Well,' continued Mrs. Aylmer, 'I must know what keeps them so long. Ring the bell, ber I don't approve of a young lady of Harriet's them : it was Charles and his tutor.

" Ob, mamma !' exclaimed the boy, bursting m with an excited look and heated face, ' what do you think Miss Harriet has been doing ?- she will get what she does not like, I expect, when you know '

'What has she been doing ?' asked Mrs. Avlmer; 'something wrong, I have no doubt; but don't be in such a hurry my darling. Poor you, Mr. Ramsey,' said she, turning round to attend to what is said to them.'

'I assure you, madam,' answered the unfortuthat he saw Miss William'-

' Leave this room, Miss Aylmer.'

Harriet obeyed; in opening the door she passed the poor governess, wiping tears of mortification from her eyes. Harriet was touched : [will forgive you if you will me. I am sorry I tied you to the tree, but you put me into such a passion, 1 could not restrain myself.' The governess flung away ber hand, and, with flashing eyes, muttered something about hypocrisy .---Harriet turned as red as fire ; she looked round Mr. Aylmer; Miss Williamson should remem- the room; her brother Charles was laughing at her disappointment. ' Take that for your pains,' said she, giving him a box on the ear, 'you age being out so long. Ob, here they come,' said she, giving him a box on the ear, 'you she exclaimed, as the door opened. It was not cowardly tell-tale;' and, with flashing eyes, ran out of the room.'

The simple version of this adventure was follows :- Miss Williamson and Harriet were taking their usual afternoon's walk. Harriet had brought with her m her arms her little pet Fido, who was seized with an unaccountable whim of keeping up a constant barking. Miss William-son, who was not in the best of humors, having had a brief interchange of words with Mrs. Aylchild, you are quite out of breath; you will kill mer, felt very much inclined to vent her ill yourself with such speed. I thought I had told humor upon the present company. In no very gentle terms she insisted upon Harriet putting the emotion of poor Harriet, who at length burst the dog down. Harriet refused, and Miss into such heart-rending tears and sobs, that her the embarrassed tutor, 'that I did not wish Mr. the dog down. Harriet refused, and Miss Charles to exert himself in this way, to put him Williamson seized hold of the dog and threw is such a state. It is very odd people cannot him roughly on the ground: poor Fido howled sions: she untied her bonnet and cloak, gave her so no more-which resolution she kept till a piteously, and limped away. With sparkling some cold water to drink, and, finally, had the eyes and raised color, Harriet took hold of her pleasure of seeing her restored to more calmnate tutor, seeing a storm brewing in Mirs. Ayl- pet, and dared Miss Williamson to do it again. ness. mer's threatening brow - 'I assure you, Mr. | The governess was so unmindful of her position Charles was so anxious to come and tell you as to do it. Harriet said nothing, but not many left my father's house,' said she at length finding volence. minutes after, she seized her orportunity, and, 'Stop, stop,' interruped Charles, 'I don't being a remarkably strong girl, tied her gov- when your words, the first words of kindness I Want you to tell mamma-I shall tell her my- erness to a tree; she then quietly left her, and bave heard, quite overcame me.' She at once going back to where her poor little dog lay really began her story ; she related, in clear terms, the The obsequious tutor was silent, and the burt, she took him up in her arms, and went to misconduct that caused her dismissal from home, agreeable Miss Aylmer staying with her, who and much more than he did either his lady or his spoiled child proceeded to relate how his sister her own room, where she remained, with dogged and her being sent with the most disgraceful of was known in all the neighborhood as a mis- heir. Harrier's affectionate heart was often

When her niece was sufficiently well to bear the news, she told her of her success. Harriet fell at her feet in an ecstacy of joy, and promised for herself much more than she was able

had taken a heavy responsibility upon herself in her to the small but select society she was acthus adopting her niece, and that the charge of customed to see herself, and looked upon her as so wayward and passionate a girl could not be the greatest ornament of the circle. As for otherwise than a distressing one; and such she found it, for, strive as Harriet would, she could not correct the faults of sixteen years in a few months, and many were the bitter hours passed istence, to her kindness-I cannot more antiv by her in repentance and regret for having offended her aunt. But what will patience, unwearied kindness and charity, not effect? Mrs. Medcalf labored hard at her task, and before six months were passed, Harriet looked upon the displeasure of her aunt as her greatest misfortune. But all were not like her aunt; to others she often behaved ill. Her aunt suffered. Harriet was heart-broken, and firmly resolved to do temptation too strong to be overcome came in ber way. Fortunately this occurred more rarely every day, and Mrs. Medcalf looked forward with sanguine hope to the reward of her bene- having her home again, now that she was likely

pass his college vacations with his guardian, before setting out a three years' tour on the con-