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pounced upon her.

ed the child.

the tiny girl.

ed the sobs.

ne the school."

late. 'Tain't late, Minnie."

Minnie's little bosom still sobbed

her pick-a-back, that a smile succeed-

the child on her back, she ran on.

"Keep on tight, Minnie, and show

Minnie could do that, and some low

chuckles succeeded her sobs, as many

villagers ran out to see the young

"Well, you see it's too early for

school, Minnie; show me the church

Minnie's little squeaky voice guid-

ed her new horse admirably. This

was the proudest day of her life, and

when she had conducted her beast of

burden down a lane, now fragrant

with violets, she pointed her small fat

"Mr 'Ales lives there, and 'e's com-

"Good gracious!" he muttered: then

.Toney laughed too, and sitting

finger at some swing gates.

and where your clergyman lives."

-la-a-a-te for school.

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Alrue

CHAPTER IV.

An Early Scholar.

"Mr. Diggins told us. miss. He wasn't over pleased."

"I hope he didn't let the sun go down upon his wrath! That's wrong, I don't know whether to take Trick

"Are you, miss?" asked Mrs. Homes. who never acknowledged ignorance.

"Yes, good-bye. It's down the avenue and turn to the left isn't it?"

'That's the village, miss, a mile from here or more. Mr. Hales is a nice gentleman. He's our clergyman, quite a young gentleman. 'I'll go and see. Thank you and

good bye.' Here Toney shook hands with the cook. 'I should hands with the cook. like to breakfast with you here some day. In Australia we all yet, miss," said the child. "What be chummed together, because it was you crying for, Minnie?" more convenient to my papa.'

Mrs. Homes was too much surprised to answer, and it was only when Toney had disappeared through a side door that she ex-

'Good gracious, Rose! She's the queerest young lady I've seen, and yet one can see she is a lady with all her odd ways.'

'She's eat up all the butter,' said Rose a little sorrowfully.

Toney was not yet out of the house however. The morning was so lovely that she could not go without Trick, and finding some back stairs, she managed to get back to her room without meeting any one. Earnestly begging Trick to behave himself, she ran down again, and Trick, barking for joy, ran by her side all along the great avenue. For the time be ing they were as happy as possible, and for a little while Toney forgot there was an Aunt Dove living in lady with Minnie Thomas on her back. the same world as herself.

'If only Pups were here,' said Toney, stopping short for want of breath; 'but there is very little time, I guess, and I must find out

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Portneuf County, Que., writes,—"I have found Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills the best treatment obtainable for address the horse or the rider, he stood still and laughed. down on the bank deposited her bur

Pills the best treatment obtainable for indigestion and impure blood. They cured me of indigestion, from which I suffered for four years.

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call you. Good morning, Mr. Hales. I came to see the village and the places of interest here. There's none

Mr Hales at once immed to a righ onclusion as to the identity of th speaker, for there had already been family consultation over Lady

at Aldersfield House."

"Miss Antonia Whitburn," he

"No, 'Toney,' that's what I answer to. I picked up this little one; but she is hungry, I'm sure. Does crying make you hungry, Mr. Hales? It loes me. When I cried the cook a home had to hake two loaves extra. "Oh!" said the Vicar. "Have you ome for the answer to Lady Dove's ote? I sent it by the groom."

"What note? Was it a note of surprise?" Toney laughed happily. "A note about you- But perhaps

if Lady Dove-" "Oh, I know," exclaimed Toney "she said last night you were to strengthen my principles. Are good at that sort of thing?"

Mr. Hales was quite unable keep his countenance.

"Anyhow, your principle of kind ness won't want strengthening, I'n sure. You have been very kind t little Minnie. Come in, if you don't mind, and my sister will give the child some breakfast, and you too it

omething more cheerful than this "I've had mine, thanks, in the kitchpark. England is a dull place, a very dull place. I wonder why en; but Minnie will be delighted. Mr. Hilton wanted to come back didn't expect to pick up a little wan dering Kanaka; but I'm glad I did." At last the village was reached, "Kanaka! Ah!" Mr. Hales re and Toney smiled with pleasure as

membered just in time. "Australia she opened the park gate leading out on the road. Suddenly she saw course." he added. little girl about six years old, jog-"They are so odd, and just like ging along in the same direction as

sort of dumb animal that can talk herself; but this little maiden, Is your sister at breakfast?" very unlike Toney, was sobbing as "We breakfast early." if her heart would break. Toney

He was leading the way up a laurel What are you crying for, duckbordered path, all the while wondering what his mother and sister would 'I shall be late. I shall be say to this strange specimen, which to him however, appeared delightful-'Late! Whatever time do voi begin! I've not begun my school ly original. Moreover, the girl's evident love of children had won 'his 'I shall be late t' school,' repeatheart. Suddenly the Vicarage came into view. It was an extremely pret-'I'll take you there then. Give ty house, with gables and bow win me your hand. Now we will run hree running on together, one barknot only by those of a hired garden.

Spring flowers made the borders gay; there were hyacinths, primroses a few crocuses still lingering, 'ion quils, anemones, winter heath in ful flower, apricots and peaches in bloon against a distant wall. Close by on could see a patch of large, deep blue gentians, also some grape hyacinths trying to look proud, and squills slightly nodding in the tiny breeze violets filling the air with the

sweet scent. "Oh, she mistook the time, miss "Oh!" said Toney. "Gracious stars! She ain't got no mother, and last how pretty." week teacher punished her for being

The Vicar fairly laughed. "So you don't know Lady Dove's

proposal. Miss Whithurn?" "Something Trick and I shall grow take to her. Indeed, it was only when Toney lifted her bodily, putting

at, I expect. To heel, Trick. He is looking at your heels, Mr. Hales; he goes at them don't mind. It's sign of respect. He took all th

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blacking off Mr. Diggins' shoes, Aunt

Dove's butler, you know." Trick, hearing the word heel, re sisted no longer, and the Vicar felt

ill Toney again had recourse to reproaches, and was forced to drag him bodily away.

"He's very intelligent," said Mr. lales, still laughing, "Come this vay, please." He passed through an pen French window and shouted 'Mother!"

A grey-haired lady, who was still ery pretty, came hastening in.

"Mother, I must introduce Miss Whitburn to you. You know little finnie Thomas. She mistook school hour and wants some breakast. Miss Whitburn kindly carried er down the village street." "How very kind of you. Silvia! Sil-

ia! Here, my dear."

Toney stood almost mute, looking ound at the pretty room and at the sweet-faced lady. Beauty in any shape always silenced Toney-for a ninute. Silvia Hales soon entered She was a fragile-looking girl of seventeen, much too grave and silent or her years. A constitutional delinother, whom she idolized.

whom we have been talking about. ind here is little Minnie Thomas rive her something nice to eat if you take her to the kitchen."

Silvia held out a thin white hand to Toney, who looked at it before shaking it. It seemed so fragile that Toney felt as if she were touching thina that might break.

"Whatever did Aunt Dove write to ou about?" she asked. The three looked at each other, and

hen Silvia answered: To be continued.

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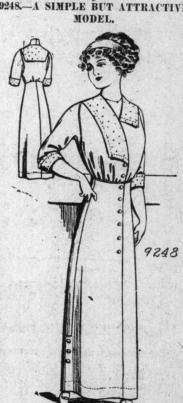


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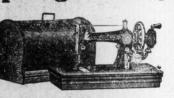
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