



CHAPTER II.

THE RED HOUSE.

"In happy ignorance the children played ;
Alike unconscious, through their cloudless day,
Of what they had and had not."

ROGERS.

MAY DENT was the child of a Canadian who had married an English lady. Both had a little capital, and by industry and good luck—having no losses by fire, which are the ruin of so many in the Far West—they had made a comfortable home for their children. Mrs. Dent had, indeed, overtaxed her strength by the labours incumbent even on gently nurtured women in that wild country ; but May, the eldest girl, was a second mother to the little ones, of whom one—Carrie—was also old enough to be useful. The Dents' house was larger than common, and the logs were painted—white above, and the lower story of a charming