

## HRS. FORTUNE.

He's the sorrowful darling.  
For taking the rest of me, my dear,  
She's won't more night than day!

She comes down the green lane in  
the golden light, weather her woe,  
clear voice filling the golden air.

The birds chock at the morning cohort  
to listen, and, then, jealous of the sweet  
sounds, subdue into silence, and all has it  
all her own way. Such a patient young  
face peeping out from the big white sun-  
bonnet, the soft, brown eyes gentle and  
sad.

Not a pretty face! Truth gilds us to  
state that.

Lillian Aymer, or Lili, as she was  
called, was fair from beauty.

Closely behind her Jack trudges patiently  
along with fishing rod and the usual accom-  
paniment of shoulder.

Jack, the very vagabond brother, who-  
wherever Lili goes, is sure to hover some-  
where near. The group upon the shady  
porch of the old house always catch a glimpse  
of the two, and directly a loud voice  
rounds a warning note:

"Lili! You, Lili! Come home—quicks!"  
The girl stops short, the boy runs  
over her lips, a red flush rises  
for a moment, and then both  
vocalize:

"Old Abner! I know he'd find some  
excuse to spoil our fun. I say, Jack,  
Uncle Abner is calling us," says Jack,

his whistle rustly.

He knows too well that Uncle Abner's decisions  
there is no appeal. And, however, Lili  
have planned such a lovely little dinner  
in the creek, where the sides lean over to  
the water, and the trout are to be had  
at themselves in the water, and the  
pride of speckled trout is waiting to be  
caught.

And they have so few holidays these  
two. For they are the orphan children of  
Abner's sister, and being dependent  
upon her bounty, have to "pay their way".

And they do pay their way with interest.

For poor Lili the household  
duties, while Jack is "good as a  
rake" had been a burden, and old man  
pronounces, "and costs awful!"

Lili, standing in absent heart,  
her hands more, more,

"I—Dye here! Come back to the  
house."

She turns mournfully to Jack, who  
stands digging his feet into the bank of  
the little stream, and come to a  
halt at the entrance to his shadowy  
porch.

Old Abner Benton is sitting in a great  
multi-bentwood armchair, his spectacles  
off, while Jack, a tall, slender, strong—a  
grave-looking man, seated near,  
clearly sipping a glass of Mrs. Benton's  
home-made wine.

Lili starts in surprise. Company is an  
unusual occurrence.

"That's the last time we'll see Uncle  
Abner," says the strange kindred,

"I'll give the benefit of your news, Miss  
Aymer, your father's wife is dead."

Lili Aymer, my niece the boy is her  
brother Jack Aymer. Lili is this Mr.  
Lilith.

Lilith is not the slightest idea who Mr.  
Lilith may be, but she executes a simile.

"I—I don't," says the strange kindred,

"I'll give the benefit of your news, Miss  
Aymer, your father's wife is dead."

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that his son had been a bad boy, and  
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My dear Miss Aymer, I congratulate you  
and Mr. Jack here also! You and your  
brother have fallen but to \$80,000 each.

How much money is growing in Lili's be-  
wildered eyes. Mr. Benton's words  
sound far off, she starts suddenly to flail  
her hair and breathless, seated upon  
the porch steps while the gentleman bows.

"There, my dear!" he says kindly.  
"Now you are all right, Mr. Benton."

He turns to the old farmer—"if you will  
allow me to take charge of these young  
people as their guardian!"

"No, you don't!"

Abner Benton's harsh voice is hoarse  
with anger.

"I know you know what you've got to  
do," he says, "but I'll tell you, the best right."

"He starts furiously; "the brother of their dead mother! I'll  
take care of the young ones myself. I'll  
make them pay for it!"

Jack, the son of the remark,  
overheard by him only that very morning,  
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