

a good opening by delay, so she made up her mind, and, convinced in her own mind that the respectability of Mrs. Holland, her frankness and her veracity, were beyond dispute, agreed that Edna should be ready to go to Lockington Hall as soon as possible to enter upon her new duties.

"She will go with you, won't she?" asked Mrs. Bellamy.

"Not unless she can be ready by the day after to-morrow, ma'am. I've been here four days, not having been able to find a lady who would suit by means of any of the agencies. And his Lordship has written to say that I must return. He's grown so used to things going by clockwork, and so used to my ways, that he misses the slightest little thing, and it angers him, not being able to go out and about like other people. It seems the soup was spoilt two nights ago, and he gave the cook warning, and I not being there to make things up there's been unpleasantness."

Mrs. Holland spoke with the pardonable pride of a great personage in whose absence riot and havoc reigns.

Mrs. Bellamy, rather troubled, said that she would do her best to bring Edna within a week, since she understood Lord Lockington was impatient in the matter. And then she bade the housekeeper good-bye, and went back home, having learnt all necessary details concerning the best train and the change which would have to be made on the journey, and the colour of his Lordship's carriage which would be sent to meet Miss Bellamy at the station at Bilston to take her the remaining mile and a-half of the journey.

When Mrs. Bellamy got home that day she found her golden-haired niece in a pensive mood.

"Did you see Mrs. Holland?" asked the girl, rather nervously.

"Yes, my dear," replied her aunt, with elaborate cheerfulness.

"And what did you think? Have you settled it—that I am to go?"

"Why, yes, my dear, I don't think you are likely to find a better post, or one half so well paid."

Edna was looking very serious indeed. "That's just it," she said, in a lugubrious tone of voice. "When one comes to think of it, aunt, the salary is so high, and the work sounds so easy, that I can't help thinking there must be something—something wrong with the post somewhere! Don't you, aunt?"

"Well, then, perhaps you'd better write and give it up," said Mrs. Bellamy, quickly.

But at that Edna's eyes flashed. "No, no, not without giving it a trial," said she. "I'm practising all day so as to be able to play well enough, and I'm going to the church to-morrow to have a lesson from the organist. All I want to do is to warn you that if I find there's something very awful about it—if the old gentleman should be very fiery-tempered, for instance, and throw footstools and sofa-cushions down at me if I play a wrong note—why, then you must be prepared to receive me back at a moment's notice, and to forgive me for having to give up such a splendid salary and the honour of being engaged in the household of a Viscount."

And, as her aunt agreed to this, they very quietly and gravely decided that the experiment must be made.

## CHAPTER II.

THERE was much discussion between aunt and niece as to the best way to lay out the ten pounds which Edna had received in advance of her salary. The housekeeper had intimated that she would be expected to travel first-class, but that this money would be refunded to her. There remained the important question of dress.

It was evident that Mrs. Holland had not looked with favour upon the young musician's attire, and it was a serious matter to decide how to make a sufficiently splendid appearance on so small an outlay as they were prepared to make.

The difficulty was solved by the provision of a perfectly plain serge coat and skirt in navy blue, with a flat "motor" cap to match, for every day, and a skirt made out of some black silk Mrs. Bellamy had by her, a white silk blouse, a plain black cloth jacket, and a grey felt mushroom hat trimmed with

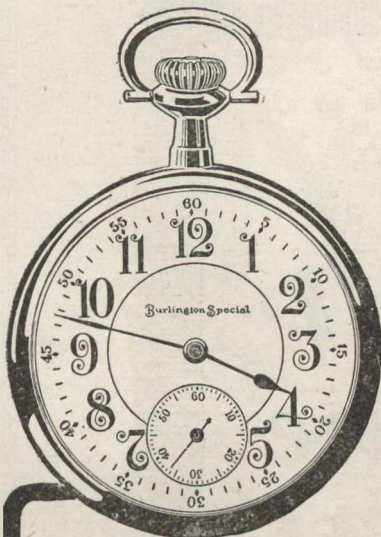
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**THE JEWELS** are the finest grade of selected genuine imported ruby and sapphire jewels, absolutely flawless. 19 of these chosen gems protect every point.

**DOUBLE JEWELS** That is, bearings with two jewels each are used in the Burlington.

A watch so jeweled requires very much less attention than watches jeweled in any other way.

**MAIN SPRING** Two points in which Americans have yet to compete with the Swiss are mainspring and hairspring. Although watch springs are made now in almost all parts of the world, no one has ever been able to equal these Swiss springs. The strain is almost absolutely constant, no matter whether the watch is fully wound or is nearly run down. The Swiss springs used in the Burlington watch do not crystallize with usage, and breakage is very rare. These springs will run a watch from 32 to 36 hours.

**U SPRING REGULATOR** allows adjustments to smallest fraction of a second.

**FACTORY FITTED** Every Burlington Special movement is fitted into the case right at the factory where the movement was made—into a case made for that watch. No looseness or wearing of parts against the sides of the case. No rattle or jar.

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