



VOL. XIX.—No. 942.]

JANUARY 15, 1898.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

SISTERS THREE.

By MRS. HENRY MANSERGH, Author of "A Rose-coloured Thread," etc.

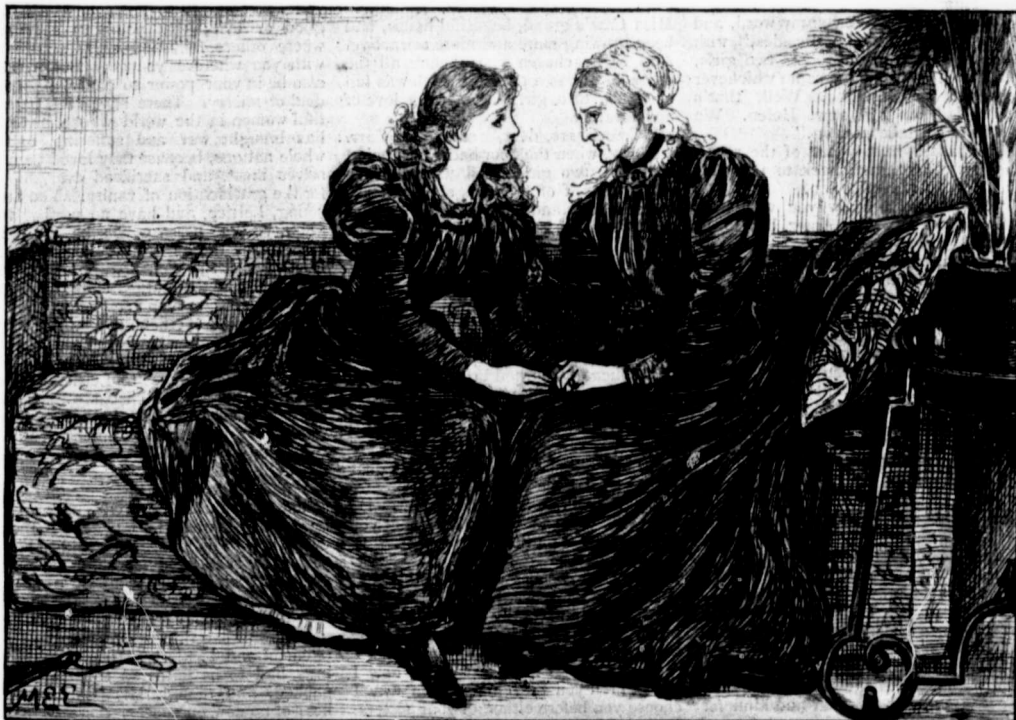
CHAPTER XV.

WEDNESDAY was a day of great, though suppressed excitement, and when evening came, and Miss Carr summoned the girls into the drawing-room, it would be difficult to say which of the three felt more acute anxiety. Mr. Rayner had considerably taken himself out of the way, but Mr. Bertrand was seated in an easy chair, his arms folded, his face grave and set.

Miss Carr pointed to the sofa, and the three girls sat down, turning inquiring eyes on her face. It was horribly formal, and even Norah felt cowed and spiritless.

"Girls," said Miss Carr, slowly, "it was my intention to say nothing about my plans until I had made my decision, but it seems that your father has forestalled me and told you of my wishes. When you were little children I saw a great deal of you. Your father

was one of my most valued friends, your dear mother also, and you were often at my house. When you came here I felt a great blank in my life, for I am fond of young people, and like to have them about me. Last January, your father visited me, and told me of a conversation which he had had with you here. He was anxious about your future, and it occurred to me that in some slight degree I might be able to take the responsibility off his hands. I have felt



"MY DEAR LITTLE GIRL, I HOPE WE SHALL BE HAPPY TOGETHER!"

All rights reserved.]