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THE SISTERS ✱
An Interesting Story of the
Life of Sisters whose
circumstances
varied.

"I do not know," faltered Phillis.
And then she sat upright and looked
her hostess full in the face. "That
will be for you to decide when you
hear what I have to say. But I fear"
—with a very poor attempt at a smile
—"that we shall see very little of
each other in the future."
"Oh, there is a mystery there?"
returned Mrs. Cheyne, with a little
scorn in her manner; and her mouth
took one of the downward curves
that Mr. Drummond so thoroughly
disliked. She had taken an odd fancy
to these girls, especially to Phillis,
and had thought about them a good
deal during a sleepless, uneasy night.
Their simplicity, their straightfor-
ward unconsciousness, had attracted
her in spite of her cynicism. But at
the first suspicion of mystery she
withdrew into herself rather haughtily.
"Do speak out, I beg, Miss Chal-
lenger; for if there be one thing that
makes me impatient, it is to have
anything implied."
"I am quite of your opinion," re-
plied Phillis, with equal haughtiness,
only it sat more strangely on her
girlishness. "That is why I am here
to-night—to inquire after your
foot and explain things."
"Well?" still more impatiently, for
this woman was a spoiled child, and
hated to be thwarted, and was un-
disciplined and imperious enough to
ruin all her own chances of happi-
ness.
"I told you that we were very
poor," went on Phillis, in a sweet
and steady voice; "but that did not
seem to distress you much, and I
thought how noble that was"—catch-
ing her breath in an instant—"but it
will make a difference, and shock you
dreadfully, as it did Mr. Drummond,
when I tell you we are dress-makers
—Nan and Dulce and I; at least that
will be our future occupation."
"Ah, just so," ejaculated Miss
Mewlstone; but she said it with her
lips far apart, and a mistiness came
into her sleepy blue eyes. Perhaps,
though she was stout and middle-
aged, and breathed a little too heav-
ily at times, she remembered—long
ago when she was young and poor
and had to wage a bitter war with
the world—when she ate the dry
bread and drank the bitter water of
dependence and felt herself ill-nur-
ished by such unpalatable sustenance.
"Oh, just so, poor thing!" And a lit-
tle round tear slipped on to the ball
of scarlet, fleecy wool.
But Mrs. Cheyne listened to the an-
nouncement in a different mood.
There was an incredulous stare at
Phillis, as though she suspected her
of a joke; and then she laughed a
dry, harsh laugh, that was not quite
pleasant to hear.
"Oh, this is a droll, passing droll!"
she said, and leaned back on her
cushions, and drew her Indian cash-
mere round her, and frowned a little.
"I am glad you find it so," returned
Phillis, who was nonplussed at this,
and did not know what to say, and
was a little angry in consequence;
and then she got up from her chair
with a demonstration of spirit. "I
am glad you find it so, but to us
it is a sad earnestness."
"What are you going?" asked Mrs.
Cheyne, with a keen glance through
her half-shut eyes at poor Phillis,
standing so tall and straight before
her. "And you have not told me the
reason for taking so strange a step."
"The reason lies in our poverty and
paucity of resources," was Phillis's
cort reply.
"It is not to make a sensation,
then? No, I did not mean that," as
Phillis shot an indignant glance at
her; "not exactly; but there is no
knowing what the emancipated girl
will do. Of course, I have no right
to question, who was a stranger to
you four-and-twenty hours ago, and
had never heard the name of Chal-
lenger, except that it was a good and
old name; but when one sees young
things like you about to forfeit caste
and build up a barrier that the brave-
st and best of us cannot equal, that the
bravest will fear to pass, it seems as
though one must lift up one's voice
in protest."
"Thank you; but it will be of no
use," returned Phillis, coldly.
"You are determined to make other
people's dresses?" And here her
lip curled a little, perhaps involun-
tarily.
"We must make dresses or starve;
for our fingers are cleverer than our
brains," replied Phillis, defiantly; for
she knew nothing about it, and her
powers were so immature and un-
fledged that she had never tried her
wings, and had no real notion whether
she could fly or not, and yet no girl
had a clearer head. "We have chosen
work that we know we can do well,
and we mean not to be ashamed of
our occupation. In the old days la-

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of thing now, for our business may
often bring us out after dark, and we
must leave our home in the darkness."
"Oh, this must not be!" he returned,
decidedly, and though it was too
dark to see his face, she knew by
his voice that he was dreadfully
shocked. "I must see your mother and
talk to her about this; for it would
never do for you to run such risks.
I could not allow it for a moment;
and, as your clergyman"—coming
down from his high horse, and stam-
ping a little—"I have surely—surely
a right—" But Phillis snapped
him up in a moment, and pretty
sharply, too, for she had no notion
of a young man giving himself airs
and lecturing her.
"Oh, no right at all!" she assured
him; "clergyman could only rebuke
evil-doers, to which class she and her
sisters did not belong, thank heav-
en!" to which Mr. Drummond de-
voutly said an "amen." "And would
he please tell her if dress-makers
were always met two and two, like
the animals in the ark? and how
would it sound when she or Nan had
been fitting on a dress, on a winter's
evening, if they were to refuse to
leave the house and cheer the tonic
bottle and how—" But here Mr.
Drummond checked her, and the
darkness hid his smile.
"Now you are beyond me, Miss
Challenger. In a matter of detail, a
man, even a parson, is often at
fault in the way of managing his
business. I forgive me; the word slipped out by ac-
cident! Could you not do the fitting,
or whatever you call it, by daylight,
and stay at home quietly in the eve-
ning like other young ladies?"
"Of course not," returned Phillis,
promptly. She had not the least idea
why it could not be done; indeed, if
she had been perfectly cool—which
she was not, for Mrs. Cheyne had
decidedly stroked her the wrong way
and ruffled her past endurance—she
would have appreciated the temper-
ate counsel vouchsafed her, and ac-
quiesced in it without a murmur;
but now she seemed bent on contra-
diction.
To be continued.

PROPHESIES PEACE
Premier Asquith Says War Clouds
Will Pass Over.
BETTER TIMES ARE COMING
In Address at Lord Mayor's Banquet
In London Leader of British Gov-
ernment Says Despite Strained
Relations European Powers Are
Peaceable. — Naval Expenses
Will Not Decrease, However.
London, Nov. 10.—The Prime Min-
ister, Herbert H. Asquith, was the
principal speaker at the Guild Hall
banquet last night, which marked the
inauguration of the new Lord Mayor
of London, Sir George Wyatt Trus-
cott, and brought to a fitting close
the celebration of the King's 67th
birthday.
The Prime Minister devoted his ob-
servations mainly to the European
situation. After congratulating Tur-
key, in the person of the Turkish
ambassador, on the success of the
most amazing revolution in the an-
nals of history, he declared that, sub-
ject to the important principle that
international treaties could not be al-
tered except by the consent of all the
signatories, the British Government
had no prejudice against, or prefer-
ence in favor of, any particular set-
tlement. It has never objected to di-
rect negotiations between Austria and
Bulgaria and Turkey, always provid-
ed that Turkey, as the most prejudiced
of the belligerents, should have a set-
tlement with her honor and interests, and
that the agreement must be counter-
signed by all parties to the Berlin
treaty.
One of the happiest results of the
Russo-Anglo convention, he said, was
that both countries had been able to
approach the near eastern question
from the point of view of common
frankly and satisfactorily the sudden
crisis that had arisen. His Majesty's
Government considered that Russia
had behaved with the greatest re-
straint under exceedingly trying cir-
cumstances in following a policy of
non-intervention in Persia.
Just a year ago, the German Em-
peror, while on a visit to England,
emphatically declared his govern-
ment's desire for friendship with
Great Britain and the maintenance
of the peace of Europe.
"It was that spirit," said Mr. As-
quith, "that guided all the negotia-
tions between the two countries con-
cerning the present difficulties, and
as I believe, the other powers are an-
imated by a similar spirit the clouds
that are now darkening Europe will
soon disappear without a storm."
"There ought to be no talk of isola-
tion," continued the Premier, "or of
hostile grouping among the powers,
who are the joint trustees of civiliza-
tion and peace."
Mr. Asquith referred briefly to the
commercial outlook and thought that
if peace was maintained there was no
reason why the present depression
should be of long duration.
Both the Premier and Reginald Mc-
Kenna, First Lord of the Admiralty,
dealt with the question of national
defence, especially with reference to
the navy, in almost similar words.
They declined to anticipate the next
naval estimates, but the Premier hint-
ed that the cost of the navy was not
likely to diminish, but rather in-
crease, since having attained supre-
macy, the Government was firmly de-
termined to maintain it. The navy,
said Mr. Asquith, was now equal to
any responsibility that could be
thrown upon it, but its indisputable
superiority was not for aggression or
adventure, but to fulfill the duty of
protecting British commerce, industry
and homes.
London, Nov. 10.—The suppression
of the Century of an interview with
the Kaiser by W. B. Hale, formerly
editor of Current Literature, former-
ly one of the leading features of the
news in yesterday's papers, several of
which published lengthy despatches
on the subject. The morning papers
did not comment directly on the tone
or personality of the editorials dealing
with the subject of King Edward's
birthday, drew complacent though
veiled comparisons between his side
constitutionalism and the imperial
personality of his Imperial nephew.
New York, Nov. 10.—The suppressed
Century interview was obtained by
William Bayard Hale during the sum-
mer, he having gone to Germany for
the sole purpose of securing an au-
thorized statement from the emperor.
"Like all other magazines The Cen-
tury is printed some time in advance
of its appearance on the news-
stands."
The interview was put in type at
the De Vinne Press nearly two months
ago, and was proceeding by regular
stages when it was stopped presum-
ably by the request of the Kaiser.

Blows Head Off.
St. Thomas, Nov. 10.—Lying in bed
with his toe through one end of a
shawl-trap and the other end fast-
ened to the trigger of a shotgun, Joseph
Hardy of Aylmer put the muzzle to
his temple and blew his head off yester-
day morning.
Hardy, who was 55 years old, had
been drinking lately, and for the past
few days stayed at home in a morose
condition. He contemplated suicide
for several days, having secretly
brought in a borrowed shotgun.
Reeve Ejects Councillor.
Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 10.—Follow-
ing a quarrel in the Tramway commit-
tee of the South Vancouver Council,
Reeve George Reeve seized Councillor
Timms bodily and threw him out of
the room. Councillor Timms charged
the Reeve, who had given the casting
vote on the question, with a crook.
Reeve Timms further charged him with
ignorance.
Ghostly Record.
Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 10.—With
the killing Sunday night of John H.
Adams, a negro, by Policeman Smith,
twelve men have met death in Birm-
ingham by pistol within the past
eight days.

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made, twill serge lining, well shap-
ed shoulders and collars..... **\$9.00**
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