THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

FAMILY CIRCLE

There's Company Coming to Tea.

There's company coming to tea ! Oh, what shall we have ! let's see, There's sauce and cold meat, . And plenty to'eat, And custards enough for three.

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The cellar you'll have to unlock, The butter is there in the crock, I'll get that myself, And from the swing shelf, Cider and nuts from our stock.

There's company coming to tea! These biscuits are light as can be. Be neat with the table, And spry as you're able, We will honor our company

Come, Liza, set over the tea, Then open this can for me, Get pickles and cheese, And cake if you please, We'll have a variety.

Now run and get on a clean frock Tis half after five by the clock, The biscuits are done;

I wish they would come, What's that? Did I hear a knock?

Now won't you all walk out to tea. We've little you plainly can see, But I tell Lizie Ann We'll do what we can,

For our company come to tea. -R. N. YAWGER.

THE STORY.

Aunt Grim. BY MARY A. DENISON.

I am an author by profession, and forgetful. It is rather humiliating on occasions when asked about the title of my last book to be obliged to reply, "Really, madam, I have forgotten," but what can one do when one's memory is so imperfect, so treacherous

It might be imagined that in consequence of this infirmity, a great many unpleasant things would naturally occur, and so it does happen now and then. There is one instance, however, in which my utter loss of memory served me admirably, and enabled me to aid those I love, besides giving me a competence for life.

I had a distant relative whose character was a singular compound of lofty virtues and minor faults, and whom I esteemed very highly. Aunt Grim, we all called her, though she was not really an aunt, but she had known the family since mother was a child and by marriage was related to my father.

Our family had narrowed down to three, Sue, Dickey and myself. I was the oldest and on me devolved the duties of protector, guide and bread-winner. Sue was the beauty of the family and still went to school. Dickey took care of the house, superintended the cooking and did the family sewing, while I sat at my desk and worked with my pen from morning till night. We seldom had visitors. Sometimes Aunt Grim came in with a new poem-she wrote very creditable poems, some of which were set to music and had become deservedly popular. I was her critic on many occasions and generally found but little fault, for her taste and car were unusually correct.

Perhaps I might as well say here that I was at the time engaged to a young man who was slowly making his way in the world. Aunt Grim was no friend to Lawrence Harris. She and his mother had once been friends, but they quarrelled years before and her dislike extended even to the children when they came. Lawrence had for years been the bone of contention between us, till finally I begged her never to mention his name.

"You needn't tell me that, Miss," she said, tartly. "I have always hated his name and it's a consolation that you can't marry him for some time yet. Sue will be on your hands for two years, at least, and when she is finished it may be a year or more before she gets a school, and Dickey is very delicate, as her poor mamma was before her. You're not goi the way you do forever, either; you'll give out. You write altogether too much; your name appears quite too often. I can see a falling off in your stories. You are writing merely for money. When I think how it might be, I lose my patience entirely. Who do you think has bought that splendid new house on the square?

"Why then," I said, and a chill crept through my veins "the lessons must stop." "That's just what might happen. Now the doctor would take such pride in Sue's progress. She might have whatever she wanted, a thousand dollar instrument, I suppose, if she just said the word."

"She never will say H," I made warm reply, "not if she waits for me to marry the doctor. I won't have him and he "If Lawrence Harris was out of the way," began Aunt

"But he is not out of the way, and if he went ten thousand miles instead of three, I should still marry him when the time

came." "Of course," said Aunt Grim, "you're as obstinate as girls generally are in such cases. You would a little rather be a

"Of course," said Aunt Grim, "you're as obstinate as girls generally are in such cases. You would a little rather be a poverty-stricken heroine than not, I imagine. O dear, how I pity you !" and with that Aunt Grim pulled her shawl over her thin shoulders and took her departure. When Sue came home that day I studied her with a new interest, noting how exquisitely beautiful she was growing, in features, complexion, everything that went toward the making of a lovely woman, from the liquid, long-fringed eyes, to the dainty foot under her snowy skirts that it cost so much to keep white and trim. white and trim.

White and trim.
"Did you know, sis, that Dr. Bellair has bought the house on the square, or rather facing the square, I suppose I should say?" was the first question Sue asked.
"A unt Grim told me," I made reply.
"It's just the loveliest thing I ever saw, Jane Bennet took me through there a vactorice."

"'Sue! you shouldn't have gone," I said, feeling myself

"Sue! you shouldn't have gone," I said, feening myscu flush. "Why not? Jane is his cousin; the house was open. I never saw such a beautiful place." There's a ball-room there, the whole length of the house, and oh! such a conservatory! How delightful it would be to live there! "Plenty of mirrors set in the walls, I suppose," said Dickey, "how they will multiply those red locks of his." "I think his hair is positively beautiful!" said Sue. "He is the handsomest man I have ever seen." "Go and practice your violin lesson," said Dickey, "it's

"Go and practice your violin lesson," said Dickey, "it's quite too foolish of you to be talking about handsome men after that fashion."

that fashion." "All right," said Sue, rising, "but I shan't take back one word, and oh! I do wish—"she cast a backwardiglance at me and disappeared.

word, and oh! I do wish—" she cast a backwardglance at me and disappeared. "I only wish we could keep her a child," half sighed Dickey. That night came a letter from Lawrence. He was still pushing, delving, digging, finding pockets in the rugged rocks, blasting, assaying, going deeper and deeper into the bowels of the earth, hoping to be rewarded by a rich find, but all the while it was costing good money—so much of his salary went into this hungry, yawning mine every day, and I couldn't help thinking there was a heartache in every line, brave as he tried to be. I was a little disheartened. To be all the time expect-ant of good news and yet never to get beyond the same minute particulars of ordinary and discouraging work, did not tend to my comfort after a hard day's toil. And then I pictured the dear fellow in his lonely cabin with nothing but my letters to look forward to, no home-ties, no church, no amusements, save such as were afforded by the rude miners with whom he could not affiliate, toiling like a slave from day but encouraging.

to day, and I am free to say that the prospect looked any time but encouraging. I was twenty-five and felt myself years older, I had so long taken the ordering of the household upon me. Dr. Bellair called very often, sometimes to bring a book, or flowers, or some new music for Sue, for which I thought she thanked him too extravagantly. He evidently looked upon her as a child, and he would not be discouraged by my coldness. Of course he never spoke to me of love, that was done with, for I had told him frankly of my engagement to Lawrence, but still something warned me that he had not yet lost hope, and this embarrassed me and made me shy. The old frankness between us was gone, and if he looked at me my cheeks burned painfully. Meantime the house was furnished and the doctor's

us was gone, and if he looked at me my cheeks burned painfully. Meantime the house was furnished and the doctor's maiden sister moved in. I was reminded with every visit that Aunt Grim made of what I had lost, that my youth was departing, that the mining business was precarious and ruined every one who made a venture in it with the exception of those who had money to begin with, till I flatly told Aunt Grim one day to let mealone, that I was perfectly capable of managing my own affairs, and that I was tired of hearing about Dr. Bellair. In all this I was careful to sáy nothing disrespectful, but Aunt Grim chose to think otherwise. She declared I had insulted her, that she had never taken so much interest in any of her friends, as she had in me, but that I need never look to her for anything. After indulging in some few feminine epithets not at all complimentary to me, she took her leare with the final remark that she should never darken my doors to the latest day of her life, all of which I was often my doors to the latest door my duty. done my duty

done my duty. Strangely enough, a day or two afterward came discourag-ing news from Lawrence. A flood had come and the mines were full of water. The rainy weather had brought on an attack of rheumatism, and there was no doctor nearer than there will be in the lower will dury more. Sink and discours attack of rheumatism, and there was no doctor hearer than twenty miles in that lonesome wilderness. Sick and discour-aged he had lost all hope and was thinking of coming back to his old business, at which he could at least make a living. Then Sue was taken sick, and though her illness was neither severe nor long, it cost time to nurse her and money to pay the doctor's bills, though the latter were not large. Sue had scarcely left her bed before I was taken down with a fever and kept my room for over a month, during which time my income was stopped. Sue was kept from school and the violin practice had to be given un. kept my room for over a month, during which time my income was stopped. Sue was kept from school and the violin practice had to be given up. Of course the doctor came daily, sometimes twice a day. How kind and thoughtful and patient he was! Lovely dishes filled with delicate viands found their way to my sick couch. Beautiful flowers, for which I have a great passion, stood on tables and brackets. The doctor's sister, a dear, homely old maid, often came in during the days of my convalescence and read to me. The doctor himself prepared my medicines and contrived to remain in my room as long as possible, sometimes talking to Sue and sometimes giving orders to Dickey. "Liust love him!" Sue would exclaim, her checks flushed

"But it's all planned," said Dickey "and Sue is to go with

you." I gazed at my sister in speechless astonishment. "You are to go up in the mountains where we all went the last year poor papa was alive. You remember the old, rambl-ing house and the verandah overlooking the great, grand hills.

ast year poor performant overlooking the great, grand hills.
What a sight it was!"
Did I not remember? Then a hot flush came over me.
"But who will pay for it all?" I asked.
"I will," and Dickey's sweet face beamed with smiles.
"See here," she put a roll of bills in my hand, all twenties. "There are five hundred dollars, there," she said, and kissed

"Where in the world did it come from ?" I asked.

"Where in the world did it come from ?" I asked. "If you look at me in that way I won't tell you," she said, bringing the *eau de cologne*. "Now listen while I bathe your head, for you are positively feverish again. Do you remember that once with some money, part of which I saved and part papa gave me, I bought some shares in a mine? That was five years ago." Yes, I remembered, and that we all laughed at her, papa declaring they would never be worth the paper they were printed upon.

printed upon.

declaring they would never be worth the paper they were printed upon. "I showed them to Dr. Bellair, noticing that somefhing about those same mines was mentioned in the papers, and he told me he thought money could be raised on them. You can't blame me for taking his ofter, dear, and we in such need of money. I gave them to him at once and to-day he brought me five hundred dollars, five times as much as I dreamed they were worth. What do you think of that?" I could not think; I sat there astonished—dazed. "So you are to go to dear old Oakview and pay your expen-ses, every cent of them, out of this money, and the longer you stay the better I shall like it." For some moments I could not speak, I was so overcome with astonishment and gratitude. Then a thought struck me. "Perhaps the doctor bought them, thinking we needed the money. They really may not be worth anything, after all, and though it would be so kind of him, it is your money and you ought to keep it. No, I won't use it." "Why don't you tell her just how it is?" said Sue, who had just come in time to hear our conversation, yiolin case in hand,

"Why don't you ten her just now it is is said sue, who had just come in time to hear our conversation, violin case in hand, "If you don't I will. I do think Doctor Bellair is an angel, positively I do. He said the shares were worth a good deal of money, and he would advise her not to put them on the market yet, but that he would let her have five hundred dollars on them and welcome—then he would find out just how valuable they were and she could redown them, that's just how

they were and she could redeem them—there, that's just how it stands and I pride myself upon telling the truth, I do." Dickey's face was very red, but Sue's arms were round her

it stands and I pride myself upon telling the truth, I do." Dickey's face was very red, but Sue's arms were round her neck in a moment.
"It's such a card for the doctor I couldn't help telling it, indeed I couldn't," she said.
Well, all my protestations did no good, go I must and go I did, but both Dickey and Sue went with me and we stayed three months, during which I had several letters from Lawrence, all hopeful and encouraging.
Back again in our old home, the roses in Sue's cheeks and mine, I was ready to commence work again, and went at it with a will. The doctor called as usual, complimented me on my restored health, and listened to my rather effusive thanks for his kindness and liberality, like the gentleman he was, taking no credit to himself. I did find myself thinking if I could have loved him, what a grand husband he would have made! But there was the cold, bare fact, I did not love him. I did not even like him as much as Dickey and Sue did, for they were untiring in their praises of him.
One day after we had been home for a week, I took some manuscript to the post-office. I was in a street car, and just as we passed the steps of a hotel I saw Aunt Grim coming up the street. At once I pulled the strap and sprang from the car just as Aunt Grim entered the hotel. Eagerly I followed, caught the corner of her shawl, and as she turned delivered myself of the following transports:
"Aunt Grim ! dear Aunt Grim, where have you been all this time? It certainly is an age! If you only know how delighted I am to see you! There! The kissing you right through your veil, but no matter. Did you know I'd been sick? Di Beliar was so kind, and we've all been up in the mountains and had such a jolly time."
"O, you have!" said Aunt Grim, who had to say something, as she told me afterwards. "Well, I've been away, too."
"I thought so," I said, utterly oblivious of the past. I knew you wouldn't desert us if you were here. Now do come and see us, we re in

There was a queer look in her eyes at this, and still recollec-tion came not back to me. "I'm going down to the post-office, now with one of my-best stories, and I've got to walk all the way, for I couldn't re-sist the inclination to see you," I went on hurriedly, fearing I was keeping her, and in spite of that inquisitorial stare which said, 'Can you possibly mean this? 'Are you sincere? – so we will expect you Thursday, and I have some nice news to tell you and lots to talk about." At this she seemed to thaw a little, so I took it for granted it was all right and she would come. Giving her another kiss

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"O, I know," I said, trying to speak carelessly, "of course it is Doctor Bellair. I hear of nothing else now-a days. It's very thoughtful of him, for you know his sister will keep house for him; she will never marry

"Clara Bellew, I'm out of all patience with you," said Aunt Grim, with a frown. "When I look at that place, with its Grim, with a frown. — when I fook at that place, with its lovely grounds, conservatory, speaking tubes, electric bells, stationary tubs and a hundred and one conveniences, it makes me wild to think that you might be mistress there, and won't. I tell you you are throwing away a chance that few girls ever get, a lifetime of ease and a husband devoted to you. It seems to me you can't think much of the girls interests. You know that beath would be welcome there." to me you can't think much of the girls' interests. You know they both would be welcome there." ">They don't want to go, Aunt Grim; at least. I know Dickey doesn't," I said. "Sue is not old enough to judge of thing: yet."

Dickey noesn't, it sam, things yet," "Such and some, *rcry* handsome," said "Such spoing to be very handsome, *rcry* handsome," said Aunt Grim, impressively. "I don't see what you are going to do about her. She dresses well enough to go to school, now, but bye, and bye why you've no idea what a handsome girl mode."

sue will have to work like the rest of us," I said shortly

needs !"
"Sue will have to work like the rest of us," I said shortly,
"I don't believe she thinks of anything else,"
"Don't you?" said Aunt Grim, with a queer smile, "well,
you may find yourself mistaken. Wait till she begins to blame
you for djuying her the things a girl of her sort needs. Why it
was only the other day she said she wished you would marry
the doctor, for she hated such a poky life. O, Sue has her
ambitions already, I can tell you."
"Did Sue say that? I asked, half inclined to be angry.
"Yes, and I don't blame her. Like all pretty girls she sees
a future before her, if she has a fair opportunity. She doesn't like hard work, she never will. School teaching will be to her
a weariness to the flesh. She is gay and bright and beautiful, just the girl to build eastles and be miserable if a burdensome task is forced upon her. Such girls are not made for toil and drudgery, you and I know that. They can't help their tastes and inclination and longings."
"Sue likes her violin," I said, "and she is sure to excel in that, her master says. She could get a very nice living with that, perhaps a great deal more, and fame in the bargain."
Yes, and suppose siekness came and you had to give up work!

"I just love him !" Sue would exclaim, her checks flushed and her eyes shining, "there never was such a man ! And his sister says he is always so kind and considerate. O Clara, why can't you marry him ! We should have everything we want."

sister says he is always so kind and considerate. O Clara, why can't you marry him? We should have everything we want." "Get out of my sight, you selfish little kitten," I said, trying tolaugh, and when she had gone I cried bitterly. I was so weak yet and things were going behind hand, and only Law-rence's letters gave me any comfort, for he had found business in a far Western city, and in time oh, that dreadful word! might be able to make a competence if all went well. How I longed to be at my old desk again, whose folded papers, ink-stand, pen-rack and books, I could see from my sick chair. I even coaxed Dickey to bring me pen and ink and a sketch that only wanted finishing. So the doctor found me writing, and took the pen out of my fingers with a masterful touch and car-ried the table and manuscript to the back of the room. "Do you want to ruin your eyes?" he asked, as I sank back, utterly weary. "An hour's exertion like that might send you to bed again with a relapse of fever." "But doctor I must." I said, and I felt the tears forcing themselves hotly through my closed eyelids. "There is no must about it," he said gently. I looked up at him, wondering vaguely what he meant, fearful, too, that he would say something which it would be neither right nor pleasant for me to hear, but he only stood there, smiling, but with a look in his face which I could not help interpreting. How I did thank him for his silence, for in that terribly weak state, mind and body enervated by disease, I was in no fit condition either to listen to or combat whatever arguments he might have seen fit to use in pleading his cause. "Doctor says you must go away," said Dickey, when she

condition either to listen to or combat whatever arguments he might have seen fit to use in pleading his cause. "Doctor says you must go away," said Dickey, when she came upstairs that same day. "The idea is just ridiculous," I said, my heart beating

rapidly at the very thought. "He must know I can't go away."

vas all right and she would come. Giving her another kis

wondering what made her so strange. "Aunt Grim coming here on Thursday! and to dinner!" exclaimed Dickey, almost shrieking. "You can't mean it! Why don't you know how emphatically she declared that she

Why don't you know how emphatically she declared that she would never put her foot in this house to her dying day? Don't you remember what a battle you had?' I sank down in a chair quite helpless. "O my patience!" cried Sue, dancing about and clapping her hands, "she had actually forgotten the whole thing—and fancy! O, I wish I had been there! Clara, if that isn't the most ridiculous exploit of your whole life. If I don't tell Doctor Bellair!" Rellai

It all came back to me and I actually gasped at the remem-brance. I laughed till I cried, then I cried till I laughed again.

Once, long before, Aunt Grim had told me that my name was down in her will for something handsome—she was very rich—and would she think now that I was trying to get in her good graces for mercenary reasons? Very likely she had cros-sed my name out, and now, I hid my burning face in my hands. How could I have been so forgetful, and what would she think of me?

of me? Next day came a note from Aunt Grim. She very sweetly declined my invitation, but insisted that I should come and dine with her that evening. "Go," said Dickey. "I wouldn't," said Sue, with a little scornsin her voice. After all, I had been quite sincere, so why shouldn't I? I went. The tide was turned, I found as soon as I saw her, and in my forum favor

favor. "You can't think how odd it seemed to have you come up to me in that way," she said, "when I thought I had angered-you beyond forgiveness. It kept me awake last night thinking it out. I knew you had been sick and longed, during your illness, to see you, but I had said rash words and my miserable pride kept me away. Now I can only say I am too glad you broke the ice as you did yesterday. You certainly are a forgiving creature."

I certainly am a forgetting one, dear Aunt Grim," f said, laughing. "It never occurred to me when I saw you yesterday that/ we had quarrelled, and I'm as glad as you can be that it didn't. Tye never forgotten that I liked you though."

didn't. Eve never forgotten that I liked you though." To cut a long story short, our anticable relations were resumed. Poor Aunt Grim lived only a year after that, and I was with her during the greater part of her illness. She left me a confortable little fortune. Two years ago, I had been married a year then. Doctor Bellair led my sister Sue to the altar. Sue had always been in love with him, so she confessed to me, even when a school girl, and I am quite sure he is very much in love with her. Dickey lives with me, superintending my house in the good old fashion, and a we are all very hanny.

old fashion, and so we are all very happy

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