

door," said I, and as Tom and Gerrie passed through, they duly honored it.

"Indeed!" said Alec, pausing as though to look at it, but watching covertly for Josie to pass.

Josie, who had just caught Baby in her arms, perceived his intention, and laying her finger on her lips, passed swiftly out by the other door, through the hall and into the parlor, appearing suddenly before Alec, and asking him quietly,

"What are you looking at Mr. Malcolm?"

"Yes, what are you glowering at?" added Tom.

We all had a good laugh at Alec's discomfiture, but he declared he would catch Miss Josie under the mistletoe yet.

And now the door bell begins to ring, announcing the arrival of our evening guests. First come Mr. Ryde and our two allopaths. Dr. Ornum has been badly hit by Gerrie, for he turns pale when I give him a hint of her engagement. As to Dr. Hutchins, there can be no doubt that his admiration of Josie is growing deeper every day, but no one can divine that young lady's inclinations; and I fear she is destined to cause many a heart to ache before she yields her own.

Next comes Miss Willis, then Miss St. John and her sister, who is of the dainty waxen American type of prettiness, with rich chestnut hair, delicate features and *petite* figure. She has just returned