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Uncle Terry

CHARLES CLARK MUNN

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stop off at Sandgate on the way. Now,

do this for me, sis, and I'll buy you the earth when Christmas comes!"

"Well, you will have to stay here until Monday," said Blanch, "and be real nice to mamma and Ede all the

time, or I can't fix it. Lucky for you Master Frank, that they are out driv-

"But why must we wait four days?"

for turning your back on us and going

some pleasure and a little vexation by

"Mr. Nason and his sister are coming

here Monday," said she to Aunt Susan,

"and we must put on our best bib and tucker, I suppose. But how we can

contrive to entertain his sister is be-yond me." Nevertheless, she was

rather pleased at the prospective visi-

tation. Her school had been closed for over a month and her daily life

was becoming decidedly monotonous. When Albert had written regarding

the invitation the Nasons had extend

young man tried to obtain her consent to join a yachting party, providing his

mother and sister decided to go, she was morally sure of it. But it made

no difference, for if the supposedly aristocratic Mrs. Nason had sent her

a written invitation she was the last

person in the world to accept it. To so

go out of her way for the possible op-

portunity of allowing the only son of a rich family to pay court to her was not characteristic of Alice Page. Rather a thousand times would she

teach school in single blessedness all her life than be considered as putting herself in the way of a probable

suitor. Of her own feelings toward Frank she was not at all sure. He was a good looking young fellow and no doubt stood well socially. At first

she had felt a little contempt for him due to his complaints that he had hard work to kill time. When she received

the letter announcing his determina-tion to study law and become a useful

man in the world she thought better

of him. When he came up in June it became clear that he was in love with her. So self evident were his feelings that she at that time felt com-

pelled to avoid giving him a chance to express them. Her heart was and

always had been entirely free from the pangs of love, and while his devotion

was in a way quite flattering, the one insurmountable barrier was his family. Had he been more diplomatic he would

never have told her his mother frowned at him when he danced twice

"I am a poor girl," Alice thought

when he made the admission, "but I'll

wear old clothes all my life before his

haughty mother shall read him a lec-

sociate, good natured Abby Miles, had

never dared to speak of it, and Aunt

Now that Frank and his fashionable sister were coming to Sandgate, Alice

felt a good deal worried. Firstly, she knew her own stock of gowns

was inadequate. While not vain of her looks, she yet felt his sister would

consider her countrified in dress or

else realize the truth that she was painfully poor. She had made the money her brother gave her go as far as possible. Her own small salary

was not more than enough to pay cur-rent expenses. When the day and train arrived, and she had ushered her two

guests to their rooms, her worry began. A trunk had come, and as she busied

herself to help Aunt Susan get supper under way before she changed her dress she was morally sure Miss Nason would appear in a gown fit for a state

dinner. But when she was dressed and went out on the porch, where her guests were, she found Miss Blanch at-

tired in a white muslin, severe in its simplicity. It was a pleasant surprise,

and at no time during their stay did Alice consider herself poorly clad. During the conversation that evening

Blanch gave an interesting description of her life in the mountains, who were

there, what gowns the ladies wore, the hops, drives, tennis, croquet and whist

games, and when that topic was ex-hausted Alice turned to Frank and

hausted Alice turned to Frank and said, "Now, tell us about your trip."
"There is not much to tell," he answered in a disappointed tone. "The fact is, my yachting trip was a failure. I had a two weeks' trip all mapped out, no end of stores on board, and anticipated lots of fun, but it didn't materialize. The second day Bert got left ou the island, and we didn't find him until the next day. In the meantime he

til the next day. In the meantime he had found a pretty girl and acted as if he had become smitten with her. Then we ran to Bar Harbor, and the rest of the boys found some girls they knew

Susan was wise enough not to.

with a poor girl.

off on the Gypsy."

Alice.

ANCH NASON, Frank's younger sister, was his good friend and sympathizer and in all the family discussions had usually taken his part. His elder sister, Edith, was, like her mother, rather arrogant and supercilious, and considered her brother as lacking in family pride and liable to disgrace them ome unfortunate alliance. It was to Blanch he always turned when he needed sympathy and help, and to her he appeared the day after he had left the Gypsy. His coming to the moun-

CHAPTER XXVII.

booked for a buckboard ride tomorrow. Another reason is I mean to pay you tains surprised her not a little.
"Why, what has brought you here,
Frank?" she asked. "I thought you That afternoon Frank wrote Alice the longest letter she had ever received, nine full pages. It was received with were having high jinks down in Maine on the yacht with your cronies."

"Oh, that is played out," he answered. "The boys are at Bar Harbor, having a good time. Bert is at a little un-heard of place saying sweet things to a pretty girl he found there, and I got lonesome, so I came up here to see you

and get you to help me."
"I thought so," answered Blanch, laughing. "You never did come to me unless you wanted help. Well, who is the girl now, and what do you

Frank looked surprised. "How do you know it is a girl?" he

ed, she believed it was due solely to Frank's influence, and when that "It usually is with you," she answered, eying him curiously. "So out with it. What's her name?"

"Alice Page," he replied.
"What, the girl you wanted us to invite to go on the yacht?" asked "That's the one, and, as you know,

"Which shows her good sense," interupted Blanch. "Well, what can I do in the matter?"

"Much if you want to, and nothing if you don't," he answered. "The fact



is, sis, I want you to pack a trunk and go with me to call on her. She is mighty proud, and I imagine that is why she turned the cold shoulder on why she turned the cold shoulder on my efforts to get her to come to Bos-ton to meet you all. Now, if you go there, if only for one night, the ice will be broken, and of course you will invite her to visit you and all will go well."

"A nice little scheme," responded Blanch, "but what will mamma and Ede say?"

never mind them," answered "They need never know the plotter. it. Just tell them you are going to Saratoga with me for a few days. We will go there if you like, only we will

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laugh at Frank's description of his trip.
When the chitchat slowed down Alice said: "I don't know how to entertain you two good people in this dull place. There are mountains and woods galore and lots of pretty drives. And," looking at Frank, "I know where there is o nice mill pond full of lilies and an old moss covered mill and a miller that looks like a picture in story books. There is also a drive to the top of the nountain, where the view is simply grand. I have a steady going and faithful old horse, and we will go wherver you like."

and decided that a gander cruise had

lost its charms. So I threw up my hands and turned the Gypsy over to Bert, and for all I know or care he is

using her to entertain his island fairy."

Alice joined with Blanch in a good

"Do not worry about me, Miss Page," replied Blanch. "If I can see mountain and woods I am perfectly happy." When the evening was nearing its

close Frank begged Alice to sing, but she declined.

"Do you play or sing, Miss Nason?" she asked cautiously.

"Oh, please don't be afraid of me," was the answer. "I never touched a piano in my life. Once in awhile I join in the chorus, as they say, for my own agus smeat and the amazement of oth-"Because, my love lorn brother, in the first place I don't want to miss the Saturday night hop, and then we are amusement and the amazement of oth ers, but that is all."

It wasn't all, for she played the guitar and sang sweetly. Finally Alice was persuaded to open the piano, and then out upon the still night air there floated many an old time ballad. After that she played selections from a few of the latest light operas that Frank had sent her and then turned away. "Oh, don't stop now," exclaimed both her guests at once. "Sing a few more songs." Then, with almost an air of proprietorship, Frank arose and, going to the piano, searched for and found a well worn song. Without a word he opened it and placed it on the music rack. It was "Ben Bolt!" A faint color rose in Alice's face, but she turned and played the prelude without a word. When she had sung the first verse, to her surprise Blanch was standing beside her and joined her voice in the next one. When it was finished Frank insisted on a repetition, and after that all three sang a dozen more of the sweet old time songs so familiar to all. Then Alice left the room to bring in a light lunch, and Frank seized the opportunity to say, "Well,

sis, what do you think?"
"I think," she replied, "that you were foolish to go yachting at all. If I had been you I should have come up here in the first place, stayed at the hotel and courted her every chance I could. I am in love with her myself, and we haven't been here six hours.'

Frank stepped up to her quickly and, taking her face in his hands, kissed

(To Be Continued.)

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