

If the talk by the dining-room fire in the evening was an enjoyment to Edith, it was still more so to Edward, to Ross, and to several others of the boys. It made the school life seem a little more like home; it gave them the society of one whom they all looked upon as a sister, and with whom, while they treated her with rather more than the deference which is usually shown by schoolboys to their sisters, they could yet talk about home, about their lessons, even about their school scrapes with perfect freedom.

The association thus set on foot gained its way slowly but surely among the boys. With its members it furnished a bond of union in many ways; all were anxious to carry out the programme suggested by the Warden. They were more careful than before in their conduct in school, in order that from them at least should come a good example to the rest of the school, in other respects, as well as in hard reading, though in the latter respect too they did their best. In all the fortunes of the "Knights," Edith took interest; indeed she had got to look forward to her evening talk with the boys. Major Ellis had requested her to sit sometimes in the dining-room after "study" was over, where it was usual for a few of the older boys to gather for an hour before bedtime. It would tend to civilize them, the Major said, and at the same time prevent much of the noise and discomfort which sometimes came to pass when there was no one to hold them in check.

Edith had no objection to this; indeed she preferred being with the boys, and talking over their school politics, perhaps giving help here and there, where she could, in their lessons, to sitting in the drawing-room, where Mrs. Ellis held court with Mrs. Cadgett for her prime minister. That lady had taken a dislike to Edith, which would have entitled her to Dr. Johnson's admiration as a strong hater.

She shewed this in a great many little ways, which no one but Edith could notice. Her favourite plan of annoyance was to talk at Edith in a manner which, under the pretence of being brusque and frank, was really malicious. She was never tired of disparaging artists, literary adventurers and pressmen. She would appeal to Edith as to details of London Bohemian life. Once when pawnbrokers were mentioned, and a discussion arose as to this institution, fortunately little known in Canada, she said to the clergyman who happened to be dining there: "Oh! Miss Sorrel can tell us all about that," and Edith, too well aware of her father's frequent visits to the "dark low archway," where "Uncle Attenborough" holds sway, blushed deeply, at first with pain, and next as looking up she caught the gaze of Cyril Ellis, with some other feeling for which she could not account.

What perhaps tended to strengthen Edith's hands in managing these boys was the fact that Cyril Ellis very frequently joined them. He was fond of helping the boys in their studies, and when the work was over liked to join in their talk with Edith. Edward remarked with some regret that Cyril always seemed in argument to take the opposite side to Edith; he would pretend to misunder-

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