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# Uncle Terry

CHARLES CLARK MUNN

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"But the mill will never grind with the water that has passed," quoted Frank, "and 'the tender grace of a day that is dead will never come back to I wish I had been country born. I think I've missed countless pages of I think I've missed countries page 1 think I've missed countries. Do you know," he pleasant memories. Do you know," he pleasant memories. Do you know," he pleasant memories.

pleasant memories. Do you know," he added, turning to his companion, "I am rapidly falling in love with the country and—and its pretty sights?"

"Whose idea was it to pounce upon me that way at school?" exclaimed Alice suddenly, throwing off her retrospective mood and smiling again. "Was it yours or Bert's?"

"I confess I coaxed Bert to do it. We had to take the train at 5 o'clock in the morning and have coffee and

in the morning and have coffee and rolls at the station for breakfast and pie and sandwiches for dinner."

"And all to surprise one poor little schoolma'am and break up her school," put in Alice. "Was it worth all that asneyance?"

"Up to the present moment," answered Frank, "I must honestly say it was. This drive and the mill I consider cheap at any price." "I don't mean this part of the sur-

prise," said Alice, blushing a little at his open admiration. And then in self defense she added: "What has become of the Gypsy? Bert writes me that you two are planning trips in her al-

"She is still in winter quarters," answered Frank. "I've been too busy



What silly nothings these two young people uttered!

studying law to do more than think of her. I've reformed, you know." Alice made no reply. The memory of what he had so evidently wished her to infer regarding his reasons for this new departure came to her in an instant and brought a little wonderment as to the possible outcome of it. Turn which way she would and propose what topic she might, he seemed bound to use it as a vehicle of his undisguised admiration. She had wished to sider him as a friend, because he had een a friend to her adored brother when that brother needed one, and while she had written him a dozen chatty letters which might be printed for all the privacy they contained, she had studiously refrained from allow-

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ing him to infer even that she had any special interest in his actions.

When they arrived home Albert was

on the piazza and Aunt Susan had sup-per waiting. The table was set with blue ware of a very old and quaint pattern, and when Alice had filled a bowl with lilies for a centerpiece they gathered around and "passed things" in true country fashion. The evening was un-usually warm for June, and after the two young men had smoked and chat-ted for half an hour Alice appeared dressed in spotless white, with a half open lily in her hair and another at her throat. The moon, which was nearing its full, shone through the open spaces of the vineclad porch and added an ethereal touch to the sylphlike picture she presented.

"Well," she remarked cheerfully as she seated herself near her brother, "my time is yours, and what can I do to entertain you?"

"I had planned to take Frank to trout brook tomorrow morning," responded Albert, "and in the afternoon you and he can hunt for mill ponds and grottoes, if you like, or gather laurel."

"And leave me alone all the fore-noon?" put in Alice. "No, thank you. I'm shut up for five days, and you can't get rid of me so easily. Why can't I go too?"

"I'm agreeable," replied her brother, "only a trout brook is not nice walking

"I'm aware of that," she responded, "and you two can go fishing, and I'll hunt for laurel in the meantime. We can take a basket of lunch with us and make a day of it in the woods." Then, as a possible contingency presented it-self to her, she added: "Why not let me invite my friend, Abby Miles, to go for company? She and I can pick laurel, and when you have caught all the harmless little trout you want we can meet where we leave the wagon and have a picnic."

"That suits me," said her brother and without waiting for further discussion this diplomatic fairy in white arose and remarked: "I'll get a shawl, and then I'll trouble you, Mr. Nason, to escort me over to Abby's. It's only a few rods, and I want you to meet her. She's ever so nice."

The plan as mapped by Alice was carried out to the letter, and when the two young men joined the girls at noon they found a broad flat rock in the woods had been covered with a table-cloth and spread with a tempting meal. The girls had gathered great bunches of pluk laurel, and a cluster of it deck-ed the table. After dinner Alice insisted that they visit the mill pond once more, and when they returned at night with two baskets of trout and laure and pond lilies enough to stock a flower stand the day was voted an eminent

Frank made one error, however, for just before they left the mill he slipped away unobserved and, finding the miller, put a bit of paper into his hand with the remark, "Keep this to pay for the boat," and left him hurriedly. When the old man made examination he found he had a five dollar bill. To surprises of this kind he was not accustomed, and before noon the next day there wasn't a man, woman or child in Sandgate who had not heard of it.

CHAPTER XVIII. HAT evening Frank begged for music, and Alice sung for two long hours. When the concert was ended Albert observed: "If there's one song in the house that you have not sung, Alice, I wish you would sing it. I hate to have you

"I have only sung what I was asked to," she replied. "Is not that so, Mr. Nason?"

"That is true," replied he boldly, "and you have not sung one that I wouldn't enjoy hearing again tonight." "Oh, I have enjoyed them all," Albert, "only I thought you might have missed one, and, as Frank remarked coming home that he was hungry for music, I wanted him satisfied."

The next day they attended church, only this time all three walked back together. Alice was graciousness personified. All her jokes and smiles and all her conversation were lavished upon Frank. Several times Frank, who intuitively felt she did not wish to be left alone with him, started to ask her to take a walk that Sunday evenher to take a walk that Sunday evening, but each time his discretion prevalled. "If she is willing to listen to any lovemaking, she has tact enough to give me a chance," he thought, "and unless she is I had better keep still." The evening was one to tempt Cupid, for the moonlight fell checkered through the half naked elms along the roadway, and where here and there a group of maples stood was a bit of shadow. The whippoorwills had just shadow. The whippoorwills had just returned to Sandgate, and over the meadows scattered fireflies twinkled. The houses along the way to the village were wide apart and the evening air just right for a letteries. air just right for a loitering walk. To Frank, anxious to say a few words that would further his hopes in the direction of this bewitching girl, it seemed a waste of good time not to take advantage of the evening. It was a seemed the lights in the lights in the lights in the lights in the lights. almost past and the lights in the houses across the valley had long since

vanished when he obtained a little

The charm of the evening had stilled conversation, and neither had spoken for a long time when he said rather disconsolately: "My anticipated visit is almost over. May I ask you to go in and sing just one song for me, Miss Page"

"With pleasure," she responded in her sweetest tone; "what shall it be?" "I will leave that to your selection."

Without a word she led the way in and began searching among the pile of music on the plano, and, finding what she wanted, opened and spread the music on the rack.

It was "Ben Bolt." She sang it in a minor key, and as the opening words, "Oh, don't you re-member sweet Alice, Ben Bolt," floated out on the still evening air they seemed to him fraught with a new meaning and that a veritable sweet Alice was bidding him, another Ben Bolt, not to forget her. When the last note had faded into the night air she turned

her now serious eyes toward him.
"I thank you," he almost whispered.
"And there won't be many waking moments in my future when I shall not think of—sweet Alice!"

It was not much of a love scene, but to him it seemed a wide open door of hope, and when many miles separated them, and for days, weeks and months afterward, even when doing his best to crewd dull law reports into his brain, the one tender glance she gave him and the tones of her voice came back with unfailing accuracy.

The first visit of Frank Nason to the Page home, his sleighrides with Alice and his appearance at church had caused no end of comment. It was known that he had been a classmate of Albert and came from Boston, and later Aunt Susan vouchsafed the information that she "guessed he came from one o' the first families and that he appeared right well behaved."

It was all she really did know, for both Alice and her brother were con-siderate of her failings and knew it was not safe to discuss their visitor in her presence. The tempest of gossip had not more than half quieted down when it received a regular boom from his second coming. The pupils of the north end district school spread the news of their teacher's unexpected callers and that she had dismissed school at once and gone on with the



She turned her now serious eyes toward

stranger. Old Amos Curtis, the miller, told of their visit and, wonder upon wonder, how the next day "her beau" had given him a five dollar bill "jest fer lettin' 'em use a leaky old boat fer

(To Be Continued.)

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