

Made Themselves Home.

"No, Miss Philena, I never went to a surprise party. Indeed, I have always considered them an impudent and unwarrantable intrusion on the privacy of a family."

"Why, Mrs. Ellsworth, you surely don't mean that—how now?" Mrs. Ellsworth did not trouble herself to reiterate, and Miss Philena went on: "Me and the rest of the girls and boys have had lots of fun that way, this winter, and we've been to nearly every house in town, and we've had it here twice."

"Yes," said Mrs. Bangs, with a smile, "they like to come here; the parlor is so good for dancing. It uses up lots of gas, to be sure, but her pa never makes a fuss about that, like he used to."

"Do you ever have reason to suppose your parties an inconvenience to the people who receive them?" asked Mrs. Ellsworth.

"Oh, I dunno," was the half saucy reply. "You see, when we once get there, of course it wouldn't do for 'em to tell us a word—wouldn't be polite, you know. And then, sometimes, the folks want to come—want to have fun without the cost of an out-and-out party."

"That is well enough, but that is not a surprise party." Mrs. Ellsworth gave the folks a kind of a hint that she was coming.

"Then, that is not a surprise party, either. But I heard something early in the winter, about a party going where a prayer meeting was being held. Was that really so?"

instinct to call and make kindly inquiries concerning the sick child, Mrs. Bangs felt a fluttered consciousness that all the "neighboring in the world would never do away with the feeling; and even Miss Philena had found her abundant stock of assurance severely taxed in her efforts to place herself on familiar footing with Mrs. Ellsworth.

"I may not be down again to-night, dear," said Mrs. Ellsworth to her daughter and a son next younger, as she rose from a hastily-eaten supper.

"No, thank you, dear; you had better stay with George and attend to your lessons. I have no idea there is much the matter with Eddie, but you know I always think it best for those who are to keep out of a sick room till we are sure."

She saw, as she dismissed the servant who had been in temporary charge, that the child seemed rapidly growing worse his feverish restlessness being on the increase, with short intervals of dozing, and she awaited anxiously the coming of the doctor, who had promised to see him before bedtime.

She gave a nervous start as about eight o'clock, a loud ring at the door-bell resounded through the quiet house. Eddie sprang up with a scream of fright and listened with dilated eyes to the sounds of loud voices and laughter which filled the hall below.

"This is a surprise party, mamma! There's a whole crowd of them, and there's a man to play for dancing, and they've lit the gas all over the house."

"What in the world is going on?" was his wondering question. "Only a surprise party." "You are an old friend, and well acquainted with her views on the subject, and in full sympathy with them."

"It seems to all of us, Mrs. Ellsworth that your Helen must have awful dull times. I've never seen her at a party yet. We think we ought to stir her up a little. She's most as old as I am."

old-time assertion that "Tis an ill wind that blows nobody good."

When, in due course of time, Mrs. Ellsworth thought proper to exercise her "privilege" of inviting to her house whom she pleased, on the occasion of an entertainment given in honor of the debut of her only daughter, Miss Philena Bangs was obliged to make up her mind that only on her own invitation could she hope to be that lady's guest.

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