

room table, where it had been lying; and parts.

At luncheon she duly gave her message. Only Mr. Butler and his two daughters, hungry, blabbed about, cheerfully excited by their morning's experience, were present.

Mr. Butler was the usual middle-aged Englishman, with very square-toed boots and grizzly whiskers. He was fond of active pursuits. He talked gossips and statistics. He naturally looked to his older brother Charles, who had never married, to advise him with his large family. Daughters grow up, and growing daily, tempestuous school-teachers at Eaton, a mischievous two wild young fellows in India, another very promising son at college, who had gone up for his little go with great eclat. Mr. Butler would tell you. There was no end to young Butlers. But, unfortunately, Charles Butler greatly preferred Dick to any of his brother's sons. The boy was like his mother, and a look in his eyes had pleased for him often and often when Dick wondered at his uncle's forbearance. Now the cousins only resembled their father, who greatly bore Charles Butler with his long stories and animal spirits.

"We must go without mamma, if it is to-morrow," said Catherine Butler.

"We could not possibly go without a chaperone," said Georgians, who was great on etiquette. She was not so prettily as Catherine, and much more self-conscious.

"Capital cold beef this is," said Butler. "Can't Matilda play chaperone for the occasion?" By-the-bye, Catherine, I am not sorry to hear a good report of your friend Mr. Beauchamp. I can't afford any imprudent sons-in-law. Remember that, young ladies."

"Should you like Dick, papa?" said Georgie, with a laugh.

"Humph! that depends," said her father, with a mouth full of cold beef. "I should have thought my brother Charles must be pretty well tired by this time, but I believe that if he were to drop in tomorrow, Dick would come in for Nuttawanda and Lambwold."

Capital land it is, too. I don't believe they have a chance—not one of them. Dick, Sandy, etc., etc." Sandy was Catherine's little Scotch terrier, who also was fond of cold beef.

"It is such a dog fellow," said Catherine. Butler, looking very sweet and coyly, and peeping round the dish cover at her father. "Of course, I love my brothers best, but, I can understand Uncle Charles being very fond of Richard."

"Oh, Richard is a capital good fellow," and Mr. Butler (not quite so enthusiastic as when he spoke of the beef a minute before). "Let him get hold of anything he likes, and keep it if he can. I, for one, don't grudge him his good fortune. Only you women make too much of him, and have very rarely spoilt him among you. Painting and music is all very well to its way, but, mark my words, it may be pushed too far." And with this solemn warning the master of the house filled himself a glass of sherry, and left the room.

Alas! as she died her bonnet-strings after luncheon, was somewhat haunted by Dick's sleepy face. The vision of Garant, and Lauseoul, and Enid, and King Arthur's solens shade, still hovering about her as she went along the dusty road to Kensington, where two little figures were beckoning from behind the iron rail of their schoolhouse yard. Presently the children's arms were tightly clasped round Catherine's neck, as the three went and sat down all in a heap on Mrs. Martin-gale's gray schoolhouse sofa, and there chattered and chirped, and chirruped for an hour together, like little birds in a nest.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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