Feat, and your halls are crowded.
Fast, and the world goes by:
Succeed and give, and it belos you live.
But no man can help you die.
There is room's in the halls of pleasure
For a large and tordly tealn.
But one by one we must all file on
Through the narrow of le of pain.
—Eils Wheeler.

MEG'S ADVICE.

It was the day after the party, and can any day be any more utterly wretched? I mean, of course, to the people who have and have supper in the biggest bed- day."

It was the day after the party, and every individual in the house was miserable. The days before the party had not been remarkable for comfort, but they at least had been tinged with the radiance of hore and bright anticipation, while now nothing remained but "dregs and bitterness," and to clear away and get the house into order again. This would have seemed rather a dreary task in any circumstances, I dare say; but it was greatly aggravated by the fact that we were all in very low spirits, or to put it honestly, in dreadfully bad tempers, having each and all a special grievance

My uncle's household consisted of himself and my aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbee, their two sons, Christopher and Peter, their two daughters, Lottle and Sophy, and myself, Meg Merton, the orphan daughter of my aunt's only sister. My mother had died when I was eight years old, and my father, whose habits were by no means of a domestic kind, sent me to school, and allowed me to spend all my holidays at my aunt's; and when he died and my school days were ever, my temporary home became a permanent one. This came to pass quite naturally, and was taken as a matter of course by my kind hearted cousins; and Aunt Charlotte, who had never seemed to suppose that she was conferring any particular favor upon me by giving me a happy home among them all. But I appreciated it, and endeavored to prove my gratitude in every t, y possible. I was older than Lottie and Sophy and left school before they did, and I became very useful in the house. Aunt Charlotte was of a nervous, timid nature, and as I happened to be self-possessed and cool and decided she soon came to rely entirely on my judgment and energy, and in a year or two I was housekeeperin-chief, and my advice was asked and pretty generally taken on matters both small and great—indeed, "Meg's advice" became proverbial in the household. Naturally I grew a little dictatorial, for I often wondered what they could have done without me. Chris was the only

one I could not manage.

each and all miserable. My uncle was confined to his room with a bilious attack. where he lay greaning and anathematizing "that champagne." My aunt looked very haggard when she first came down in the morning, and said her head ached badly; and her appearance did not to please you all, and this is the result brighten as she and I investigated the state of the crockery, et cotra.

"I shall never give a party again," she said quietly, but it was the quietness of despair, "Nine champagne glasses broken, two sherries, and three of the best china plates, and a great stain on the drawing room carpet! We might have been entertaining a set of barbarians!"

Christopher and Peter, usually the most affectionate of brothers, were now not on speaking terms with each other, as my annt and I discovered at breakfast time; and instead of going to business together, Peter lingered until Chris had gone, and then started about five minutes afterwards. The unfriendliness arose, as I well knew, because of a stylish, disagreeable London belle, whom some friends of ours had brought with them to the party, and who had flirted desperately but with maddening impartiality, with both my deluded cousins. Hence their coldness toward each other this morning. As for Lottie and Sophy I wished, before the day was out, that they were not on speaking terms for they were nagging at each other all the time, and finished just before dinner with a downright spiteful quarrel; and aunt Charlotte cried. Their grievance was about two brothers, Tom and Harry Nowill; for Lottie liked Harry best and Sophy liked Tom; and with the usual contrariness of mankind, Harry was desperately in love with Sophy, and Tom with Lottie; so it was usual, after every merry-making we might have, for Lottie and Sophy to fall out about them. I felt vexed with everybody; but I think I was quite justified in being so, for they would all persist in believing-or saying that they believed-that I was in love with ridiculous John Howarth, just because he happened to be in love with me and took care that every one should them at least might have had more sense. And now this fine London belle had apknown the state of mind I was in, she feet on her dress." would never have trusted me to wash them up and put them away. Even our Kewfoundland dog seemed to share the "I don't believe it," said general dissatisfaction, and kept coming from his kennel as far as his chain would permit, and uttering long and dismal howls. The cook said that it was the sign of a death; but the housemaid pernot feel as if I cared much which it was or what happened-only I think I felt with you all!" more inclined for a funeral than a wedding, especially if the wedding entailed a breakfast and—another party.

with you all!

"Well, Meg," said Lottie calmly,

"you generally seem to think yourself capable of setting the world to rights; so as blood purifiers. a breakfast and-another party.

My aunt and I had been up as early as usual this morning—we had too much to do to be able to lie in bed. Chris and Peter of course wanted their breakfast at the usual hour, and their luncheons, which they always took with them and peace will be restored." ate in a little back room at the officeput up; and then, when they had started | querulously. nearly that hour before we had succeeded in reducing the house to anything like order. Then Lottie and Sophy had their quarrel, in the midst of which Chris and Peter arrived, and we went to | be better before morning.' dinner.

Chris folded his arms and put on a dogged and determined look as he took his place at the table.

"I breakfasted off cold fowl," he said, gloomily—"I lunched off cold fowl—I refuse to dine off it."

My aunt grew tearful again.

"This is not cold fowl," she answered, it is furkey, and you might eat it. Cold given the party-especially when, like turkeys, with sauce over them, will not, my uncle and aunt, they are of quietbeef will keep a day or two-fowls and But"-turning to me resignedly-"ring going habits and moderate means, and for the beef to be brought in, Meg; we must let guests dance in the dining-room have had enough unpleasantness for one

> "How is it there is a whole turkey left?" inquired Chris, somewhat mollified

as the beef appeared.
"It was Meg's fault," replied Aunt
Charlotte. "She put it on that dark
shelf behind the cellar door, and I found
it there this morning quite forgotten. But I wonder, Meg, that you did not notice there were only two turkeys at supper; this would have been eaten if it had been there."

"I did not have any supper," I said, for I thought there would not be room.' "That is merely an excuse," nterposed Lottie; "you were spooning with John Howarth in the conservatory all supper time."

I meant to look defiant, but I may have looked guilty. "Did he propose to you?" asked Sophy,

staring at me.

"I will put a stop to this nonzense about John Howarth," I said, determin-edly. "You shall all know exactly how the case stands and then there will be no excuse for any further display of stale wit at our expense. As Sophy supposes, Mr. Howarth did propose to me last night.

"Oh, Chris," interrupted Lottie, "how could you hit my cat in such a savage way? Come here Tip-poor pussy.'

"You should teach your cat not to stick his claws into one's legs at dinner time," retorted Chris; "then he wouldn't get hit." "He was not touching you!" returned

Lottie, warmly. "He was begging quite inoffensively.

"He was sticking his claws into my leg," reiterated Chris, with quiet and aggravating obstinacy. "Now don't you two begin quar-relling," said Sophy, impatiently, "but let Meg tell us about John Howarth. I

have often read about proposals in tales but I have never heard of a real bona fide one described. Do tell us overy word he said, Meg."

"Did he go down upon his knees?" asked Chris. "For if he did I wish I had been there to see him."

"I shalt not tell you whether he went down on his knees or not," I answered, one I could not manage.

"Bully the others as much as you like," he would say, "but you shall never bully me; and somehow or other I never things indeed to me—nicer you than

My aunt suddenly burst into tears. "This is the finishing blow," she said. -"Meg going to be married! I will never give another party as long as I live! It was against my better judgment that I yielded this time. I did it -furniture ruined, eatables wasted, your father ill, you all quarrelling like this, and Meg going to be married! No,

never another party in this house!" "-What-not even when Meg mar ries John Howarth?" sneered Chris. "No, not even then," replied aunt, re-

doubling her sobs. "Well, don't cry, auntie," I interposed, "for I am not going to marry

him. I gave him a very decided 'No."

Chris here gave a quick, covert glance in my direction; after which his assumption of perfect indifference seemed to me

a trifle overacted. "Oh," laughed Lottie, that explains why the poor fellow ate truffle instead of fowl with his boiled ham and never found out the difference! I thought

what a curious taste he had." But sunt refused to be pacified; she had reached that state of mind when troubles are positively preferred to bless

"Saying 'No' to Mr. Howarth will not buy a new drawing-room carpet," or eat up all the tarts and custards and cakes. I am sure," warming to her subject—"the waste has been shameful! When the confectioner's man came this morning, I had not a single cake or jelly or blanc-mange to send back, for every one had been broken into! And I saw you, Caris, take just a spoonful out of that expensive porcupine, when a plainer cake already commenced was close by you.

"Ob, don't blame Chris for that, auntie!" I exclaimed. "It was done for Miss Jones, no doubt. If he had the power Chris would cut off a bit of the

Koh-i Noor itself is she asked him." "I would," said Chris; "she is worth a hundred Koh i Noors."

"Really!" observed Peter, aroused a know he was, too! I did think some of last from the gloomy lethargy that had possessed him all dinner-time and addressing Chris. "What a pity she does peared on the scene-oh, I felt tempted not regard you in the same light! She to break another best china plate and all told me last night how she hated danc- and, observing them quietly, I saw them the remaining sherry glasses as I ing with you, saying that you were so thought about it! And if aunt had only clumsy you were constantly getting your clumsy you were constantly getting your ing; but when we all went upstairs to

"Indeed!" retorted Chris, "she told me

"I don't believe it," said Peter.
"Another quarrel!" cried my aunt. "Oh, dear, dear, what will be the end of it all?"

"The end of it all might be pleasant enough," I replied with energy, "if only having also condescended to take "Msg's sisted that it foretold a wedding. I did every one of you would display a little common-sense. I am out of patience

can you set our little world straight? It seems to me we are all miserable. What

can you suggest to make us happy?" "Common sense," I repeated -- "only common sense. Take my advice and "Let us have it then," said my sunt

for business, we commenced our dismal investigations through the house. We once!" sneered Chris again. "How is it always dired at six o'clock, and it was we have not thought of this panacea

"I will commence with my uncle," I began firmly. "Let him-at least, make him-see the doctor to night and he will

"That is good advice enough," said aunt, "and I will tell bim."

'As for you, aunt-go to bed at once and forget your worries. We will start a subscription list for you, which I will head with five shillings; and if the others give with equal liberality, according to their means, you will be able to replace all the broken crockery and have the white hearthrug cleaned also."

"That is good advice, too, and I will do my part by going to bed immediatesaid aunt meekly. "I am much

obliged to you, Meg."

"As for you, Peter," I continued severely, "I think, instead of quarreling with Caris about Miss Johnes, you had better turn your attention nearer home. I knew poor little Kitty Reynolds would cry her eyes out when she got home last

night, or rather this morning."
"You know more than I do then," returned Peter.

"Yes, I do; for I am in Kitty's confidence, and you are not; and I know what Kitty said to me when she was go ing home, and you do not. And my advice to you, Peter, is, make it up with Kitty and leave Miss Jones for those who

"Capital advice! But I never asked you for it, you see; so I don't consider myself bound to take it;" and he went on eating tarts.

"And now, girls," I continued, looking at Lottie and Sophy, "make up your minds to the inevitable, and change lovers. They are twins, and so much alike that you cannot always tell which is which; and I think it must be merely contrariness in you two to pretend you like either one better than the other; and"-with just a careless glance at Chris-"contrariness never pays in the end. So take my advice, transfer your affections quietly and say no more about

Then I helped myself to some blane mange, and went on eating my dinner. "But you have forgotten me," ob-

served Chris; "pray have you no advice for me?" "I hesitated a moment, then looked at

him defiantly, "Well," I said, "I think the advice I

have given Peter might also apply to you; instead of making yourself ridiculous about Miss Jones, I think you you; might find some one to admire nearer home.

Then, owing to Peter's delighted 'Bravo, Meg!' and Chris' steady stare, I had a sensation that I had never experienced in all my self-possessed life before-I think it was embarrassmentand I rose hastily from the table and left the room, presumably to see "why that dog howled so." And Chris must have left, curious on that point too, for Nero's kennel.

When we came in again Peter was

ture of defiance and sheepishness in his expression.

"I am going to see Frank Reynolds," said. "He told me last night that he he said. has a little terrier that he thinks I shall like, and he said he would let me have it cheap; so I am going to look at it."
"But," remarked Chris pitilessly,

"you know that Frank has gone away from home to-day, and won't be back until Monday; and your journey will be utterly fruitless, will it not, if you find only Kitty in?"

'I shall see the terrier," muttered Peter, putting on his hat, "and shall leave word whether I will have him or not.

"Oh, I have no doubt it will be all right," I remarked, with an innocent air. Peter looked at me, and thee said: "What was the matter with Nero?"

"Oh-his chain-I think-his collar!" stammered, taken aback by the suddenness of his question, and ending by an appealing glance at Chris.

"Never mind, never mind!" cried Peter, waving his hands. "As you said, Meg, I have no doubt it will be all right; it's leap year, you know, and Chris has only acted as any other man-" Here Peter darted through the hall door and slammed it after him, otherwise the hat

brush would have struck him. When Chris and I entered the dining-

room aunt was there. "Your uncle has just seen the doctor," she said, smiling a little as she kissed me before saying good night; "and if any of the others have been as ready to act upon your advice, you can let us know in the morning. I think we are all ready for bed to-night."

"I shall have to sit up for Peter," said Chris. "One of the servants can do that,"

said aunt. "No, they are all tired out," answered Chris; "and I shall like to sit up, just

to see poor Peter's bewilderment when I ask him what is the color of the terrier.' "Oh, he won't be bewildered at all! I put in. "He'll answer in all simpli

city, 'Plum colored' or 'Navy blue,' and then wonder why you look surprised." When aunt had retired, I noticed that Lottie and Sophy were busy doing something to their photograph albums, exchange two photographs. I said nothgether, they were merrier than usual

and quite friendly again. Thus the day begun so dismally ended right happily; and its results were hap-pier still-for Peter and Kitty are married and happy now; Lettie and Sophy are whispering together about a forth-coming "double wedding," and Chrisadvice" for once-has a wife who worships the very ground he treads on-and

he deserves it, too.

CHANCES FOR A SMILE.

"What is true bravery?" asks a New York paper. It is going to sleep while your wife sits up in bed to listen for burglars.

A Pittsburg female physician says "Woman can understand woman." Al we've got to say is, if she can she's mighty smart.

Not only must the front windows be boarded up at once, but the bell knob must be tarnished. Tarnish can be bought at any drug store.

Translated from Omnibus : Lisette-Well, Grettie, how pleases you the trampeter? Grettie-O, good, but his kisses taste a little after brass.

Young man, keep off the grass. It is said that even a moderate indulgence at lawn tennis creates an unquenchable and inhuman appetite for ice cream.

Distogne in a Saginaw, Michigan, school: Teacher-"How many races are there?" Pupil-"Three; the spring meeting, midsummer speeding, and fall

It was, of course, an Irishman in his very best mood who said that landlords are so grasping that they take a tenth of all the tenants have, and they would even take a twentieth if the law allowed them.

The younger lady-"Oh, aunty, did you observe what a badly made dress Mrs. Brown had on?" Aunt (who couldn't bear "that woman")—"Ah, that's how it was it fitted her so well, dear-yes.

A woman in Akron, Ohio, who had been married four times, was asked: "When are you going to be married again?" "Never! I shall forever remain single. I hate a man," was her

reply.
"Never engage in anything you would not open with prayer," said a very strict orthodox preacher. Whereupon an irreverent individual arose and inquired, 'What would you do with a dozen oysters?

"Past? Of course I'll pass!" replied a twelve-year old school girl in this city the other day. "Doesn't my brother keep company with the schoolma'am, and will she dare snub one of the

"No, sir," said the gentleman, "I sm not brutal in disposition and tastes; but I hate hypocrisy in man or beast, and if two dogs have a rooted antipathy for each other I don't like to see em conceal it.

"Father," asked a Beacon Hill lad, "may I go out to night to hear Governor Butler speak?" "You may, indeed," said the high-toned Boston parent, "and here's some money to buy a hatful of stale eggs."

An exchange says: "A Mississippi dog bit off a boy's nose and swallowed it. This shows the thoughtfulness of the dog. If he had swallowed the nose without biting it off it must have proved fatal to the boy.

"Why do good little children go to heaven when they die?" asked the teacher. "Because," answered the bright boy at the head of the class, "because it's unsafe to trust children in a place where there's fire."

"Did that lady take umbrage?" said the proprietor of a Harlem store to bis he also left the table and followed me to clerk, who had just had a wordy dispute with a customer. "Oh, no; she took ten yards of Turkey red calico, and wanted

felt helined to try.

"Tiffs" occurred amongst us now and then; but, on the whole, we were a very happy family until the day after the party, when, as I have said, we were each and all misorable.

"Me said some very nice things indeed to me—nicer you than could put together, Chris, if you tried for a hundred years."

"I can assure you I am not going to try, even for a minute," answered Chris, each and all misorable.

"Sainting in the hall with his top coat on, brushing his hat very carefully.

"Why, Peter," I exclaimed, "where are you going? I should have thought you would have been more inclined for even the best hotels in Chicago."

Pater larked.

"There's one thing connected with you would have thought you would have been more inclined for bed than a walk. Where are you going?"

"Yes?" replied the pleased leading.

"Do you believe that a woman nowadays would die for the object of her love?" asked a bachelor friend. don't know whether she'd die or not," answered the benedict, but I've known her to go wild when the trimming didn't suit her.

A poor woman in Lawrence was visited by a female missionary, who, in the conversation, asked her if she intended to bring her boy up to any trade, "Well," said the party addressed, "wid respects to yer, I think I shall bring him up to be an Odd Fellow."

"Yes," said the gilded youth, "I want a wife to make home pleasant." "But," objected a friend, "you'd be howling round town nights all the same." "Yes; but now nobody cares, and it would be such a comfort to feel that somebody was at home mad about

On a southern veranda: "Where is your lover, Colonel Blank? He has not been to see you for a week." "No, dear fellow, he has been detained in the city on business. He shot a judge or something the other day, and it would not be proper for him to leave until the trial is

A youngster of a dozen years went to pass the Whitsuntide hotidays with his grandmother in the country. In the evening when they sat down to dinner the grandmother eried: "O, my! There are thirteen of us!" "Don't be worried, grandmother," cried the youngster; "I will eat for two!

The English Board Schools Again.

A correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette writes: "I have been examining board schools in geography, and fancy that a few of the children's answers may have a general interest. Their excellent textbooks deal little with statistics, and much with climate, history and national manners; it also contains some simple and interesting observations about free trade. But the most interesting book can be made dull. I found that the children, while able to give an accurate list of the exports of Norway, could not recall the picture of a flord. They knew that the latitude of Paris was 49 degrees, bu; when asked, 'What is latitude?' they were either dumb or inclined to the following views: 'Latitude means lines running straight up; latitude means zones or climate; 'latitude is measured by multiplying the length by the breadth. Again, together with correct lists of imports, I received the following definitions of custom duties: 'Customs are ways; duties are things that we have to do, and we ought to do them' (from a girl.) 'Customers' duties are to go in the places and buy what they want, not stopping about, but go out when they are done'" (from a boy.) "If these were exceptional answers, the writer continues, "one would not

complain; but they were typical."

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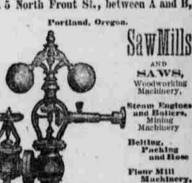
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