Aunt Diana

The Sunshine of the Family

CHAPTER V .- (Continued.)

"Papa, dear, you will not go into the study to-night," observed Mabel, in a coaxing tone, as Mr. Merle looked at the door, as though he intended to follow Poppie's example; "please come with us into the drawing room, and I will make you so comfortable."

"Very well," was his good-humored answer, as he got up a little wearily from his chair.

Alison waited a moment before she followed them.

"Are you not coming, too?" she asked, as Roger threw himself down on an easy chnir.

Roger shook his head smilingly. "Rudel has got to do his lessons. Missie never admits him into the drawing room of an evening. She says it is not the room for boys. I generally keep Rudel company or go out and amuse my-

Belfin "But not to-night, dear," she returned genily, and he got up at once.

Rudel looked up rather wistfully. "I have almost a mind to come, too," he muttered, but as Roger said, hastily, "Better not, Rue, we don't want any rows to-night, Alison is tired," he remained.

Miss Leigh sat bolt upright by the big round table, with her work-basket and a pile of the boys' socks. Mr. Merle had a little table and a reading lamp to himself, and Missie sat on a stool at his feet with a novel on her lap. Alison guessed at once that this was their ordinary position.

"Oh, is that you, Roger? You don't often honor us with your company of an evening," observed Missie, with a toss of her pretty head. "This is a compliment to you, Alison, I suppose?"

We ought to put our books away tonight," said Mr. Merle, rousing himself reluctantly, and making Alison feel as if he were treating her like a visitor. "Mabel, my dear, suppose you give us one of your little songs?"

"No, indeed, papa," returned Alison, eagerly, "I hope you will go on just the same as though I were not here. Of course I should like to hear Mabel sing, but not if it disturbs you."

"Oh, I always sing to papa of an evening," replied Missie, walking to the plano with much dignity. "Roger, I think you might offer to light those candles for me, but you boys have no idea of waiting upon ladies. You will find them dreadfully rough, Alison."

"On the contrary. I am rather fond of waiting upon ladies," was Roger's nonchalant answer, laying a peculiar stress on the last word that brought an angry flush to Missie's face. "I always wait on you. do I not, Miss Leigh?"

Yes, indeed, Mr. Roger, I always say you are so kind and thoughtful." Missie struck a chord sharply. "If you will be good enough to leave off talking I will commence my song," she said, cross-

ly, and as Roger made a low bow and little French air to herself. retired she began the prelude of a German song. Alison listened with much pleasure. Among her other natural gifts, Missie

certainly possessed a very good voice, and it had been evidently well trained. Her notes were clear and sweet, and if she could only have got rid of a certain affectation in her style, Alison could have praised her still more warmly. As it was, her admiration was so sin-

cere that Missie began to thaw for the "I suppose you sing?" she first time. said, a little bluntly.

"Not much. I certainly can not compare my voice to yours," was the modest reply, "but I am fond of instrumental lawn. music, and play a good deal.' "Then you will be able to play my ac-

companiments," returned Mabel, brightening still more. "Will you take my place, Alison? Papa will like to hear you, I am sure.'

"Not to-night,' returned Alison, feeling as though she were not capable of any further effort. "I am rather tired, and if papa would excuse me I think I should like to go to bed." "By all means, my love," observed Mr.

Merle, looking up from his book. "Pussie, dear, I hope everything is comfortable for your sister. Never mind singing to me to-night, if there is anything you can do to help Alison."

"I will come with you and see," returned Missie, a little ungraciously, and though Aiison would rather have dispensed with her company, she thought it better policy to accept this faint offer of On the landing Missie stopped, and said, rather awkkardly, "I hope you don't mind about the change of rooms, Alison, but as you do not live at home, I thought I could please myself."

"I suppose I have come home to live now," returned her sister, wearily; "but If you do not want to give it up, Mabel, I will try to be content with my present one: I only want things to be comfortable, and to do my best for you all."

"Oh, as to that, we have got along very well," returned Mabel, hastily; "you need not put yourself out on our account. As papa says, I am grown up now-nearly seventeen-and able to take care of myself and other people, too. I hope you are not going in to see Poppie; I think it is a pity waking up the child, and she is so excitable."

"I shall not wake her, but I promised to go and see her," returned Alison, with gentle firmness, as she bade Missie goodnight. Missie need not have troubled herself about her little sister's wakefulness. Poppie was sitting bolt upright in the darkness, waiting for Alison.

"Now for a good cuddle and a talk," she said, stretching out her arms to Alison; "you are a nice old thing to keep your promise." And as Alison sat down on the little bed she forgot her weariness, as Poppie laid her warm cheek against hers, and called her dear, nice Allie.

CHAPTER VI. Alison was too tired to lie awake a moment after her head touched the pillow, and she woke so late the next morning that breakfast was already over, and Miss

Leigh sent up a message by Popple, beg-

her father and Roger had already gone to the mill, and she would send her up some breakfast.

"Aunt Diana would call this a bad beginning," thought Alison. Nevertheless, as her head still ached, she yielded to the temptation. The sun was shining into her room, making her feel hot and restless, and she begged Poppie to lower the blind, so that the huge crane might not fret her eyes by its hideous unsightliness. If she could only have shut out, too, its incessant whir and grind! But that was impossible. As she drank her tea she looked round the shabby room with a strange sinking of heart and spirits. "I must wake up every morning to this," she thought, "unless I make an enemy of Missie from the beginning by forcing her to resign my room. Will it not be better to endure any amount of discomfort than to do that? I will ask Aunt Diana what I shall do about it. No, no," recalling herself, "I must act now on my own responsibility. Aunt Diana will think me a poor, helpless sort of a thing if I always want her as a moral crutch to support me "

And with this wise resolution, Alison dressed herself quickly and finished her unpacking, after which she ensconced herself in the deserted dining room and wrote her first letter to Moss-side.

A sweet, brave little letter it was. Alison touched very little on her own feelings; she did not even speak of her changed room. Somehow, she had a notion that it would vex Aunt Diana. She talked of Roger's warm welcome and Miss Leigh's kindness, and tried to make Aunt Di interested in Rudel's and Poppie's droll ways. Missie she barely mentioned, except to say how pretty she had grown and how nicely she sung, and then went on to speak of her father's changed looks. A great many loving messages, a few longing expressions for Aunt Di herself, completed the letter.

The early luncheon hour brought all the family together, but Alison's sense of orderliness and propriety was shocked by Rudel's rough appearance. He came in straight from school with unbrushed hair and unwashed hands, and sat down at the table, until Missie's loudly uttered injunctions, and at last his father's curt command to make himself presentable before he ate his dinner, obliged him to leave the room grumbling; and his return a few minutes later led to a most undignified scene of recrimination between him and Missie, carried on below their breaths with the utmost bitterness, with Poppie listening with both her ears, in spite of Miss Leigh's gentle reminders to go on with her dinner.

But this was not the only source of discomfort to Alison; her father was evidently in one of his gloomiest humors; something had evidently gone wrong at the mills, and, as usual. Roger was bearing the brunt of the annoyance. Alison's heart was full of pity as she heard the angry words that were launched at his unlucky head; in her own mind she was secretly marveling at Roger's patience.

Alison-who was on the verge of tears with suppressed pity, and longing to speak a word in his defense-was moved almost to anger by the unconcern on Missie's face. Evidently she was too used to hear Roger found fault with on every occasion to take any notice of it. She had finished her contest with Rudel, and now sat with her usual self-satisfied lock, playing with her rings and humming a

"Papa, dear," she said, at last, placidly, "do let those stupid sawmills alone; you are only exciting yourself and making yourself ill. Come out into the garden with me and Popple; it is so cool and shady there." And as Mr. Merle did not at once answer this appeal, she came round to him and touched his arm. "Come, papa," she repeated still more placidly; "you have scolded Roger enough, and it only puts you out. Come with me; I want you." And actually Mr. Merle suffered himself to be coaxed out of the room; and in another minute Alison saw them sitting together under the lime trees, with Poppie playing on the

Alison turned round to seek Roger, but he had left the room, and Rudel had followed him; only Miss Leigh was locking up the cellarette, and jingling her key

"What does this mean?" faltered Ali-"Why does papa speak to Roger in this way? It is not right, is it?"

"Come with me into the school room," was Miss Leigh's sensible answer to this as Sarah will be in directly to clear the luncheon, and we can not talk before her. I must speak to you, Alison; I must in-And leading the way to the old room Alison remembered so well, she closed the door in her quick, nervous fashion, and begged Alison to take the only easy chair that the room boasted. "No, indeed, returned Alison, quickly; "Poppie's little stool will do for me. What does it matter where I sit, or whether one is comfortable or not?" she continued, impatiently, as Miss Leigh stood hesitating. Please rest yourself in that big chair, for you look quite fagged and tired, and

I have had a nice rest." "I think I am nearly always tired," returned Miss Leigh, plaintively. "Is it not dreadful, Alison-about poor Mr. Roger, I mean? If it were not for my poor blind mother, whom I pretty nearly support out of my savings, I do not think I could endure this much longer. My dear," with the tears starting to her gentle eyes, "when one gets to my age one values peace and kind words above everything, and that is just what one can not get at The Holms."

"Do you mean that this sort of thing goes on daily?" exclaimed Alison, turning her flushed face to the governess. "Do you mean," bringing out her words with difficulty, "that papa often gives Roger all this to bear?

"Well, my dear, one must not exaggerate. Things are not always going wrong at the mills, of course; and some times we can eat our meals in peace but your poor dear father-one hardly likes to blame him to his own childis very often hard on Mr. Roger, It seems to me as though nothing Mr. Roger can do pleases your father, and as if Mabel can do no wrong in his eyes. You can see for yourself, Alison, the influence she has over him."

"Yes, I see; but I can not understand When I was last at home Missie was only a child, and yet, though she is not seventeen, and ought to be in the school room and under your care, she

seems completely mistress. "She is never in the school room now,"

I ging her to He still and rest herself, as | returned Miss Leigh, leaning back wearlly in the armchair, "Sometimes she comes in to interfere with Poppie and find fault with some of my arrangements. But she has coaxed your father into giving her French and singing lessons with her friends, the Hardwicks, and for months she has refused to open even a history; and yet you have no idea how ignorant she is. Nothing but mischief has resulted from her intimacy with Eva Hardwick. I have spoken to your father over and over again about it, but he listens to Mabel's version of her friend's character, and only the other day he told me I must be mistaken, for Eva was a bright, highspirited girl, and it was all nonsense what Mr. Roger and I said about her." .

"Roger dislikes her, then?" "Oh, yes; he never speaks to her i he can help it. She is a fine-looking girl; older than Mabel, but vain and empty headed, thinking of nothing but balls and flirtations; and you know how dangerous a friend of that sort is to a girl of Mabel's age. To do Mabel justice, she was not half so vain and fond of dress and finery until she went so much to the Hardwicks. They have completely turned her head, and, worst of all, Eva has taken a dislike to Roger because he refuses to pay her any attention and laughs at all their nonsense; and that sets Mabel against her brother. Mabel always had a temper of her own," went on Miss Leigh, feeling a sort of relief in pouring out her feelings into Alison's ear, "but she was never so aggravating as she is now. You see, my dear, if a girl does not hold her own home as sacred, if she chooses a giddy young companion for her confidante, and retails to her all that passes in her own household, finding fault with her own people, and listening to her friend's estimate of them, she may end as Mabel does, in thinking her brothers rough and unmannerly, and Poppie a disagreeable little girl."

"Do you mean Missie is so dishonorable as to repeat to Miss Hardwick all that passes at The Holms?" asked Alison, indignantly.

"They do not think it dishonorable," returned Miss Leigh, with a quiet good sense which Alison had never credited ber. "You see, Mabel calls Eva her bosom friend, and refuses to have any secrets from her. If Eva comes this afternoon, all that passed at the luncheon table between your father and Mr. Roger will be retailed, as a matter of course.

"Even if Mabel were disposed to be reticent for once, Eva, who is of an inquisitive nature, and who completely dominates her, would soon worm the whole thing from her. She has a grudge against Mr. Roger, and nothing would please her more than to hear of this humiliation. I have reason to know, Allson, that it is by Eva's advice that Mabelintends to keep your room. I have heard her say myself that, of course, as your home is with Miss Carrington, you have resigned your privilege here as the eldest daughter, and that there is no need for Mabel to knock under completely. Those were her very words."

Alison looked grave. "Is Miss Hardwick often here?" she asked at last.

"They are together every day, either here or at Broadlands-the Hardwicks' house. But as your father objects to strangers, or, indeed, to visitors of any kind, Eva very rarely spends the evenings here. They were practicing in the drawing room this morning, and afterward they went out together. There is another sister, Anna, a nice little thing, rather pale and delicate looking, but they both snub her. I suppose that makes Mr. Roger kind to her when she comes, for her sister certainly slights her, and Mr. Roger always stands up for every one but him

"It seems odd, my saying all this to you, Alison," observed Miss Leigh, after a pause; "for you are young yourself; but you were never flighty and easily led, as Mabel is. I believe she has her good points; she is really very much attached to your father, and will leave Eva sometimes, if he wants her; and in her own way she is fond of Poppie, though she tyrannizes over her. There! Popple is crying as usual; that is generally the end when she is long with Mabel. I suppose, by that, your father has gone back to the mill. I had better go to her, Alison, if you will excuse me.'

Alison had plenty of food for meditation when she was left alone; a very difficult problem was before her to solve. How was she to gain an influence over her faulty young sister?

(To be continued.)

Fun Is a Necessity.

Most people have the impression that fun and humor are life Incidentals, not necessities; that they are luxuries, and have no great bearing on one's career.

Many think of fun as frivolous, indicating a lack of serious purpose in life. There are parents who rebuke their children because they want to have fun and go in for a good time. These parents have yet to learn the great part which fun and humor play in the physical economy, and their influence on the life.

What a complete revolution in your whole physical and mental being comes after seeing a really funny play! You went to the play tired, jaded, worn out, discouraged. All your mental facultles were clogged with brain ash; you could not think clearly. When you came home you were a new being.

A business man, on returning home after a perplexing, exhausting, exasperating day's work, experiences the same thing. Romping and playing with the children, spending a jolly evening with his family or friends, telling stories and cracking jokes, rest his jaded nerves and restore him to his normal condition.

I have been as much refreshed by a good, hearty laugh, by listening to good, wholesome fun-stories, jokesor by spending an evening with friends and having a good time, as by a long, sound night's sleep; and I look back upon such experiences as little vacations - Success Magazine.

The deepening and lengthening of the Annisquam River have made an island out of Cape Cod.

Figures seem to show that we are dying younger.



Farm Industry Prospers.

No industry has equaled the prosperity of agriculture the past decade. Scientific methods of farming and improved live stock have greatly increased the revenue of the farms in all parts of the country. The land has been cultivated to yield increased crops, and prices have ruled uniformly high and stable. While other industries feel the effects of the financial depression, the soil continues to yield bountiful harvests and values hold firm in contrast with depressed business activities. The government estimates that the value of the agricultural products of 1908 will total the enormous sum of \$8,500,-

Farmers have invested approximately in agriculture \$25,000,000,000, which yields a gross income of 30 per cent on the investment, according to the estimate of the value of this season's output. In some localities where farm lands are cheap the gross return is upward of 100 per cent on the investment, and farmers are able to pay for their land with a single crop. It is estimated that there are 6,000,000 farms in the United States that are putting on at \$8,500,000,000. It is the leading industry of the country, and its pros perity has had an amelforating effect on the late financial panic. The farmers are the only representatives of an industry who are not materially affected by the current dull times.

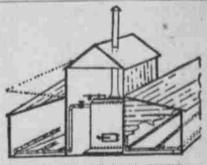
Live stock husbandry is becoming more paramount in agricultural operations. The assessed valuation of the horses, mules, cattle, sheep and hogs in the United States now totals \$4,331 .-230,000. Dairy products now equal the It Pays to Steam Fodder,

Fodder can be made much more palatable by moistening the mass with live steam. A barrel or hogshead with a little steam pipe run from a small feed cooker will do for one to half a dozen head of cattle, but for feeding on a large scale the following plans will show how to build a cooker of sufficient capacity;

The shed should be only large enough to house the steamer. There is a small door in the end next to the fire-box beside the bolller.

The bins on the sides should be large enough to steam an ample supply for each day's feeding. The bin is filled one day before using and steamed thoroughly, but not enough to make it soggy. It should be allowed to cool and then fed the next day.

The bin should be provided with hinged lids. The steam pipes are run



COOKER FOR STEAMING FODDER

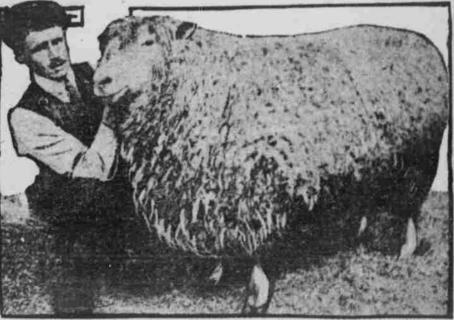
from the steamer to the bottom of the bins, where they are connected with more pipes to give an equal distribution of steam.

The pipes inside the bins are plerced with one-eighth-inch holes six the market annually an output valued inches apart to allow the steam to es-

> To preserve the bins they should be lined, bottom, sides, top and lids, with

Cellar for Roots and Vegetables. Root cellars are usually built half below and half above the level of the ground. Excavate sixteen inches below the desired level of the floor, and around the sides build a foundation twelve inches wide of one part Portland cement, three parts clean, coarse combined value of wheat and oats. The sand and six parts broken stone or value of eggs and poultry equals the gravel. Remove form and fill between

A BIG SHEEP AT THE CHICAGO STOCK SHOW.



products, eggs and poultry equals the well. value of the corn crop.

The 6,000,000 farms produce a gross output of \$8,500,000,000, or an average of \$1,416 annually. This is an average gross income per farm of \$118 per month. Even the 190,000 New England farms are credited with an annual output of \$200,000,000, or an average of \$1,052 per farm. While there is no wealth in agriculture, there are such liberal returns from the soil and such attractive profits for farm produce that farmers as a professional class lead all industries in stable prosperity. Commercial activity or industrial depression do not materially affect the consumption of farm commodities .-Goodall's Farmer.

Farm Notes.

Sheep should not be fed ensilage ex cept in small quantities.

It is said that barley furnishes as much nutriment as the same weight of

Don't overcrowd the chickens. Winter only as many as you can comfortably.

Clean dirty eggs with a woolen rag slightly moistened in water; never wash them.

A teaspoonful of chloride of lime in a plut of warm water is said to relieve wind colle in horses.

The idea of perfect comfort should predominate in every building that is constructed for the hogs.

The failures that we make, if wisely pondered and wisely used, may guide us to the success we long to achieve. Farmers are a power in the land, but

it is only as they stand together on questions that affect their welfare that this holds true.

Fourteen million bushels of wheat were exported through Puget sound ports last year and 13,000,000 through Orleans 5,000,000 bushels.

In Holland healthy paupers are set the government has six model farms, and on these a man who fails to support himself at another calling is taught the principles of farming. He together in the shape of a letter V. is then allowed to rent a small piece To this arrangement attach a horse of land at a very low figure and is and by standing on it to hold it down compelled to till it and support him- one can make a path four or five feet hours and ten minutes, means

combined appraisal of wheat and pola- the foundations to a depth of twelve toes. The combined value of dairy inches with porous material, tamping

On the foundation and at equal distance from either edge erect a solid wall eight inches thick, with one part Portland cement, two and one-half parts clean, coarse sand and five parts cinders, broken stone or gravel, leaving an opening at one end for the steps. Build up the end walls, so as to form a point in the middle, and high enough magical transition from poverty to to give the roof a sufficient pitch to 1800-Battleship Maine launched at 0 shed the rain. Near the top at each end openings



CONCRETE ROOT CELLAR.

for windows should be left, and the sash fitted and plastered in after the concrete has set and forms have been removed. If a concrete roof is desired, forms

should be erected and a roof two and one-half inches thick laid on. On the top of this, and before the concrete is dry, a layer one-fourth inch thick of one part Portland cement and one part sand should be placed, troweled when partially set and smoothed with a wooden float. Forms should not be removed from roof for at least three weeks. Roof and steps should be reinforced

with a woven wire fabric or with steel rods. The cut shows a small cellar suitable for storing all kinds of roots, fruit and vegetables,-Farm and Home.

Canning Sweet Potatoes. The Lindale canning factory has been

running regularly for several weeks, canning sweet potatoes. This is a new Portland, Ore. New York exported thing and furnishes a market not only 20,000,000, Galveston 8,000,000 and New for all the sweet potatoes raised in the vicinity of Lindale, but carload lots are being shipped in to supply the can-nery.—Wills Point (Tex.) Chronicle. in the power of the southers prestricting their output to bring its prestricting their output to bring its prestricting their output to bring its prestricting their scales. to work at farming. For this purpose nery,-Wills Point (Tex.) Chronicle.

A Snow Plow.

Take two pieces of plank one foot wide and four feet long and bolt them wide with very little trouble,



1620-The Pilgrims in the cabin of the "Mayflower" signed the famous on pact.

1672-Island of Tobago taken from the Dutch by the English. 1734 Zenger, editor of a New York weekly journal, was imprisoned by

defending government by the people 1762—First school of anatomy is American ca was opened in Philadelphia. 1789-North Carolina, the twelfth Son accepted the constitution

1804-Gen. Armstrong, American Miniter to France, presented his creie tials to Napoleon Bonaparte. 1806-Napoleon declared a blockade of

the British Isles. 1829—The city of Camden, S. C. since destroyed by fire....Presiden Gas rero of Mexico relinquished the n-traordinary powers granted his is Congress on account of the Spain invasion....Gen. Bollvar's attent to establish a monarchy frustrain by the Venezuelans ... New England began the custom of celebrating the last Thursday in November as a dry

of Thanksgiving. 1849-Dr. George Parkman mardend la Boston by Prof. John Webster of the Harvard Medical College.

1861 - Federal forces hombarded the Co. federate fortifications at Pennsis Union forces defeated in six mish at Hunter's Hill, Va.... Un States vessel Santee captured the ptvateer Royal Yacht off Galveen. 1862-All political State prisoners as

1863-Prince of Sonderburg-Glackburg proclaimed King of Denmark at Christian IX.

1864 Gen. Sherman began kis men from Atlanta to the sex...... Jane Smith, 16 years old, a Cooleerate spy, sentenced to death in & 1807—Charles Dickens arrived in Resta,

... Committee of the House repo in favor of the impeachment of Preident Andrew Johnson, 1868—New England Woman Sufing Is sociation organized, with Julia Wirk

Howe as president. 1870-Duke of Aosta elected King of

Spain. 1873-"Boss" Tweed convicted of t frauding the city tressury of Ne

York. 1874 Forty persons were drowned in the sinking of the packet Empires the United States swept by a luni

cane. 1875-Mary Anderson made her stap to

but in Louisville. 1878-The Hallfax award of \$5,5000

was paid to Canada. 1883-Standard time substituted for loss 1884-Mme. Patti, in New York of

brated the silver jubilee of her si pearance there as a prims doms. 1889 Brazilian monarchy overthe and republic established ... Alain demanded representation in Congre

Brooklyn navy yard.

1802—International Monetary Compa met in Brusseis.... Sir John Thory son succeeded John Abbott as Cast dian Prime Minister ... The pa Homestead strike declared at an 1893-Twelve thousand lives let l earthquake in Kuchan, Persia.

1809-Twenty thousand British 1989 gathered at Cape Town. 1900-Many lives lost by hurricant Tennessee.

1901-The Privy Council of English cided the Manitoba probibition to be constitutional.

1905-Prince Charles of Denmark char King of Norway....General strai renewed at St. Petersburg.

1006-Rev. Algernon Crapsey, who lo been charged with heresy, recon ministry in the Protestant Epicop church.

1907-Oklahoma admitted to the Units

FACTS FOR FARMERS The demand for farm implement again springing up and manufactures proct a return to normal conditions

The American Society of Equity on Ized at Fargo the Tri-State Grain on year. ers' department for Minnesots and in

In a speech to the National Ga Gifford Pinchot, chief forester, ungal farmers to aid in saving the water pofrom monopoly by a few big carpers. He said the farmers would soon be a electricity and would need this

power themselves. President Barrett told the deleg tending the convention of the har Union at New Orleans that it was in the power of the southern play add \$150,000,000 to their wesith.

Ole Swanson, a big Swede, wolls the Holbertson farm, southwest of City, Iowa, ciaims that he can hou corn in eleven hours than any ober He recently husked 141 bushels is a waren box.