## Aunt Diana

The Sunshine of the Family

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CHAPTER XIL-(Continued.) "Roger," exclaimed Alison, passionate ly, "this must be Fergusson's doings he must have tampered with your letter and cut out the entry in the ledger, and of course the check is in his possession

Wait a moment, Allie," returned Roger, looking very stern and pale. "The check was eashed the next morning by a clerk of ours who was turned away for dishonests; but the bank did not know that, and thought him still in our employ, so the money is lost to us. My father is dreadfully angry and poszled about the whole affair, but he does not suspect Ferrusson. He flew in a perfect rage when I hinted about his gambling debts. He blames me for carelessness; he says I ought not to have left the office without locking up both the check and the ledger In the iron safe. Fergusson has told my father that he saw Ibbotson the clerk we dismissed, hanging about the yard talking to the men. He declares that while we were in the yard thhotson must have got into the office, turned over the letters and abstracted my receipt; he must have read the entry in the open ledger, and he knew all the keys, and would easily find the check. He has gulled my father complete ly; he has actually made him believe that, in ten minutes, or a quarter of an hour at the most, Ibbotson could cut the page in the ledger, track the check to the private drawer, hunt out my receipt and make his escape and all this without any preconceived plan. Why, the whole thing is monstrous and utterly improbable, I am positive that the only thing Ibbotson has done Is to cash the check."

"Roger, oh, haw dreadful it all is! Of course, there can be no doubt in your own mind who did it all?"

"There is not a shadow of doubt in my own mind, Allie; but how am I to bring my father to believe it? Ibbotson has left the place, or he was actually going to set the detectives on him. Fergusson has completely boodwinked him. Circumstantial evidence is strong against Fergusson, to my thinking. Judge for yourself, Allie he was with me in the office when I open ed the check; he saw me make the entry in the ledger, as well as write the receipt he also must have seen me thrust check hastily into the private drawer be fore I ran out into the yard. No doubt be returned to the office as soon as my attention was engrossed with poor Mitchell. A few minutes was all that was needed to accomplish the job, Allie. I have found out to-day that he is terribly involved, and that his creditors are threatening him. told you things are coming to a crash. I am afraid we shall lose more than the sum we received from Simmonds Brothers.

"Oh, Roger, how blind your father is

What are you to do to open his eyes?" "I am going to watch Fergusson," returned Roger, with a frown of anxiety. "Allie, I never meant to have told you this. I have been about the town gleaning facts to-day, but I mean to keep them to myself for the next four-and-twenty hours. Fergusson has arrived at some sort of crisis in his affairs. I am afraid he will do something desperate. A sum of money has come into our hands to-day after banking hours, in notes and gold. I wanted my father to bring it up to the house, but he scouted the idea aw ridiculous, as though any thief could open an fron safe; but, Allie, I am not confortable in my mind. Supposing Fergusson has a duplicate key? My father is so hopelessly duped that it is no use saying any more I have made up my mind to watch the office to night."

'But not alone, dear?"

"Yes, of course. Timothy will be there, need help; but I don't mean to take him into confidence. There is a barge that passes at ten to-night. The barge is an acquaintance of mine. I told his to look out for me by the bridge. I will get him to land me at the lower end of the yard. Timothy will be in his shed by that time, thinking about his supper. I don't want him to see me, or he will enlighten Fergusson. There is a handy wood-pile just outside the office where I can tie snug." "Roger!" exclaimed Alison, in a quick,

determined voice, "you shall not go alone I shall watch with you." And as he was about to interrupt her she went on quiet-"You know Missie and Miss Leigh will out until half past ten. Papa is always in his study. They will think I am in bed. I can lock my door and put the key in my pocket, and you have the latch-key. I will be no trouble to you. I will be as quiet as a mouse, and not hinder you. I could not rest-I could not sleep, knowing you were with that had man. I will be useful as a witness. You must take me, Roger." 'Are you sure that you mean it-that

It will not burt you?" he asked, slovily, What should hurt me on a sommer' night? And the barge will be suca fun.

"Very well, you shall come if you like. You are a plucky girl, Allie."

CHAPTER XIII.

It was still early in the evening when the young conspirators returned to the house, and the next two hours passed very slowly to Alison.

At half past nine Mr. Merle was shut safely in his study. Alison went quickly into her room and made her little prepara-A brown hat she had discarded as being too shabby would just suit her noe turnal purpose; her dress was dark, and a warm jacket was all she needed; and, carefully turning down her gas and locking her door, she crept quietly downstairs, work. The dark background of piled-up | London Telegraph.

entry.

He nodded and held out his hand to he without speaking, until they were outside the gate and were walking rapidly down the road that would lead them to the

"I have brought this plaid." he observed presently, showing it to her. "I was so afraid you would find it cold if we should have to watch many hours. I don't think I ought to have brought you,

"I could not have stopped at home, was Alison's quick answer, "Is this the bridge where we are to wait, Roger? How black the canal looks!"

"I am afraid we are going to have he returned, in a vexed voice, do not mind the moon being absent; the darkness is in our favor. But what am I to do with you, Allie, if we have a wet night? You will eatch your death of

"Nonsense," replied Alison stoutly. But nevertheless she felt an inward twinge of discomfort. Neither of them had thought of the weather. How welrd and cerie everything looked in the obscure light, the dark towing path and the sluggish canal, the tall factories, and beyond them the dim woodpiles and sheds stretching away into the distance. The very burge that came floating toward them out of the darkness seemed to hold dark, grisly shapes upon it.

In a few minutes Roger was helping her to scramble on shore. They were now at the extreme end of the timber yard. and had some way to walk.

Long before they had reached their destination the heavy patter of rain drops warned them to make haste; but in the uncertain light, and with so rough a path, speed was greatly retarded.

"Here we are at last," whispered Roger; "follow me closely, Allie," she obeyed, holding his cout to give her courage. A pitchy blackness was round them; Roger's groping only led them still further into the darkness. Alison experienced a sense of sufficiention until a rny of murky light showed her where she ens-at the further entrance of one of the wood piles, with the office windows within a few yards of them.

Alison breathed more freely when she seognized her position. The interlaced planks formed an arched chamber, where they could more with comfort and be shelered from the rain. Roger spread the plaid near the entrance, and hade his sister make herself as comfortable as cirrumstances permitted, while he went a little way to reconnoiter,

"I hope I have not brought you on a wild goose chase," he said when he returned. "Timothy is eating his supper We shall have to be careful when he goes with his rounds. Hush! What is that? as a slight sound was plainly audible "Don't move, I implore you, Allie!" And Roger cautiously raised himself on his hands and knees and crept a few paces nearer to the entrance, but in a me returned and bade Alison to more further into the darkness.

"It is Fergusson: I heard his voice," he whispered. "Come a little further; Timothy has his lantern, and he might turn it on us; and now not a word if you can help it. Are you frightened,

"No," returned Alisan, a little unsteadily, but at that moment she was certainly wishing herself and Roger sufely at home. Roger's caution was not in vain; a sudden flare of light penetrated the entrance of the wood pile; they could see two men; but at the moment the lantern was lowered and Timothy's face was turned to his companion,

"A seet night, muster," he said, in a grambling soice. "I'll just go on my beat, and then lack to the shed again.

"All right, Timothy," returned the manager, briskly. "I must just hunt for the paper I told you about. Possibly I may se a quarter of an hour in the office but I will call out to you when I am ready for you to let me out of the yard."

"Ay, ay, I will let you out, sure enough, Master Fergusson, if so be as you strike upon the little window in the shed," And man moved on slowly

"Pon't move, Allie: I'll be back in a noment," whispered Roger in her car.

And Alison remained where she was, feeling the dampness all around her, an implemental moisture beginning to trickle down her neck. The rain was pouring in torrents outside: its very violence promised short duration. Presently Roger rept back to her.

"It is just as I said," he began, hurchelly. "He is unlocking the safe; he has a duplicate key-I was sure of it. There is not a moment to lose. I dare not trust Timothy. I must go for my father. Ailie, may I leave you here? You are perfectly safe—no one would harm you. But one of us must watch Ferguson: which shall it he?"

"You must go, Roger," she exclaimed. "You will go more quickly, and will know low to avoid Timothy."

"Very well, keep up your courage, Al-lie, and do not lose sight of the villain," he returned. "I will bring father back in no time. Wait where you are until Timothy has passed again."

Alison's reply was inaudible, but her mute assent testified obedience. That moment she was literally beyond speech; the horrid darkness seemed to swallow her up again; a nervous oppression made her heart beat with distressing quickness. It was quite a relief when Timothy passed again; the familiar figure in the heavy watchman's coat gave her a comforting nse of human support.

She stole cautiously across the oper path, and in another moment she standing outside the office window. There were two windows, for this one was necessarily darkened by the woodpile, but over the other the blind had been lowered to shut out prying glances. Alison supposed, as Roger had, that he had locked himself in to carry on his unhallowed

..... the dark | plants guite overshadowed the white girlish face peering in at the uncurtained

window. She was frightened at her own daring, but she remembered that she was Roger's witness; it was necessary for her own eyes to testify to Fergusson's dishonest doings. Now there could be no mustake; the open safe was conclusive, and so were the notes and gold that he was slow ing away in that great black bag. Alison watched, half fascinated by horror. had nearly finished; yes, he was looking his bag and closing the safe, the camile stood fluttering beside him on a chair, not on the table; he almost pushed against it as he went to the door and set it open. Yes, he had locked himself in for she could see him take the key out and fix it carefully in the outer lock, and then he went back into the room. Oh, what had become of Roger? In another mo ment he could have escaped with his The main entrance to the timber ) and was in the opposite direction to the private door opening into the garden of The Holms. Even if Roger and her father were coming in this moment, Fergusson would have no difficulty in cluding them. It was true the door was locked and Timothy had the key, but he could easily swim across the canal and reach the tow-

Alison's agony was rising to a pitch that almost justified rashness. She was ing desperate in spite of her terror. her with horror—could she do it? Yes, for Roger's sake she would try. Another second she was glidling round the little building and passed the curtained window with a gleam of light shining through the crevice. As she passed it there was sudden darkness; he had extinguished the candle. In another instant Alison had shut the door, almost knocking Fergusson back, if she had known it, and had trirned the key in the lock. Alison had felt a qui k, hysteric sob rise in her throat as she heard the key turning under her hand, Had she really done one miscen presence beside her given her the needful strongth? Was the dishonest servant a prisoner, and she his captor? Bur Allass has no time to do more than ask herself these questions, for Timothy came out of his shed, and was holbling toward her, and the next moment the key was in Alison's pocket, and she was standing at buy.

"What does this mean, miss? How came you here?" exclaimed the old man, suspiciously.

"I have locked Mr. Pergusson in; he is stealing papa's money out of the safe," returned Alison, turning her white face to Timothy, and the sob rising in her throat again. "I will not give up the key until

A flores kick at the door behind her

rove her from it a few paces.
"Let me out, Timothy!" thundered Fergusson. "The girl is mad; she must be out of her mind to say such things. Mr. Merle desired me to look over some papers for him; they are most important, and there must be no delay."

"You hear what he says, miss," return ed Timothy, ruther roughly; not keep the master's manager looked up. I warrant con it is all right; they keep them papers in the safe. Give me the key and I will open the door for the gen-

"Not until papa comes," was Allson's reply; and, in spite of Timothy's surly remonstrances and Fergusson's imprecalone, she remained firm. Timothy was driven to his with end, when suddenly footsteps were heard, and Allson darted forward to meet them.

"Papa, I saw him at the safe; he was surring the gold and notes into his bug-I saw him do it " she cried excitedly He blew out the candle, and then I locked him in. Here is the key,

Timothy, go at once to the police stathey had never heard before; it was so ness the cubbage is wanted. A square boarse with indignation. "Roger, take hole should be cut through the center your sister into the house. There is a of the wheel for the shaft. Farm and fire in my study; I will wait here."

"No. no; I can go alone," returned All. Home. on. "Roser must not leave you, paper But he repeated in the same curt way Take your aister away, Roger, and be buck as soon as you con." And Roger, who understood his father, hurried he across the yard and the garden, and did not leave her until she was in the warm, brightly lighted study.

"Take off your wet jacket, Allie," he charged her, as he left her; but there was to time to any more.

dripping hat also; and then she sat down fixation were quite irregular, but agree on the rug and laid her head against her father's chair, and a flood of tears relieved her overwrought nerves. Roger ound her still in the same position when he came in half an hour later; but the tears were flowing more quietly. In his boylsh exuberance he lifted her up as though she were a child.

"Here she is, father, crying her pretty yes out! And no wonder, when she is so cold and tired. Allie, do you know you by removing all dissolved oxygen by are a perfect heroine! You have done a

plucky thing, and no mistake !" "Come and kiss me, Allson, my dear!" is based on the fact that freshly-pressid Mr. Merle. "You are a brave girl, cipitated ferrous carbonate in the presand have saved your poor father's credit. Roger and you have done nobly to-night. I have let myself be duped by a dishonout rogue. Give me your hand, boy; it does not become a man to ask his own son to forgive him, but I think we shall understand each other better from this

(To be continued.)

Apt Comparison.

"When I see what Barlow accomdishes I am forced to admiration," said Bunting. "He has great physical endurance."

"Yes," replied Gargoyle. "That man has the constitution of a debutante."-



Make the Datas Pay.

There are 21,194,000 mileh cows in he United States an average of one cow to four of the population. The fact that there has been an increase per capita of the consumption of mik and a decrease of cows per capita of the population indicates that there has been an improvement in the quality of the dairy cows of the country.

In the decade of 1800 to 1000 the average production of every dairy cow showed an increase of 1,000 pounds of milk, or a commercial gain of \$211,-000,000. Yet with this improvement admitted, there are many dairles that are being operated at a loss. The life of a dairy cow is estimated at seven years and her annual deprectation represents one-seventh of her full value, which is A sudden thought came to her, thrilling taken into consideration in computing the profits of the herd. If the dairy man would ascertain if his herd is pay Jug a profit he needs to charge for the help to operate it, the cost of the feed, the interest on the investment and the normal depreciation of the value of the cows. All these items enter into fixed operating charges and need to be deducted from the gross receipts of the dairy before profits can be computed. The receipts of the dairy should not only pay the operating expenses and fixed charges, but also leave a liberal balance for profit.

Homemade Cabbage Cutter.

A cheap and easily made cabbage and root cutter is shown in the cut. Take two 12-inch boards and nail them strongly together. With dividers deseribe a circle, then saw out and mark in quarters. Cut four slots 7 inches long on a wlant, as shown by dotted lines, so the cabbage will fall through easily. Next cut two circles 4 inches in diameter. Nail one to the large wheel on the back and leave the other loose on the shaft to act as a bearing

Make a frame to admit the wheel leaving 2 inches clear, and just wide enough so the knives do not strike the side. Make a top over the wheel, and put a hopper on the opposite side from the crank. The knives are 8 inches long and can be made from an old bucksaw and ground down sharp, with a beyel on one side. Screw these on the



exclaimed Mr. Merie, in a voice wheel at a slant according to the thick

Time for Oats Land.

An application of 1,000 pounds of lime per acre was practically as efficient in case of oats as an application of 2,000 pounds in tests made at the New Jersey station. In the case of clover the larger application gave the better results. Lime in the form of carbonate produced more dry matter than nitrogen and ash burned lime. Alisan obeyed him. She took off her The results of the studies of nitrogen in general in indicating that the addition of fertilizer materials increased nitrogen fixation and that carbonate of lime favored nitrogen fixation to a greater extent than burned lime

German Mode of Preserving Milk.

A German patent specification seribes a process for preserving, milk means of the addition of a small quantity of ferrous carbonate. The process ence of oxygen immediately assimilates oxygen and evolves an equivalent quantity of carbon dioxide. One part of ferrous carbonate is sufficient for 50,-000 parts of milk, and the properties of the milk are not altered in any way by the addition, which should be made before the milk is boiled.

American Limburger Cheese

It is now claimed that the United States makes just as good limburger cheese as does the province in Belgium where it originated. The American method is to take a piece of a calf's stomach and set it away in a is pounded and then the whey pressed out. Afterward forms are filled and further drainage permitted. Sait is rubbed on the outside until it becomes slippery; then the cheese Is set, away in the cellar to ripen for a mouth or two and the germs do the rest.

Around the Datry.

There must be no guesswork about feeding the calf. The stomach of the young calf is easily cutoed by slipshed methods of feeding. Think of this when tempted to feed it milk that is too hat or too cold in a bucket that is not as denn and sweet as it should be.

Milk that sticks to the sides of the pall and becomes sour is a bad proposition, as it may cause an attack of the scours. This trouble means a break in the call's growth, perhaps a stunted calf, and in the end an animal of little value.

Do not oblige the cows to bank about the straw pile until the chilly nights are past. Dry spots for them to sleep on are usually very scarce at that season of the year.

Don't turn the cattle to pasture too "triy. A good plan to follow is P wait until you conclude the grass is sufficlently large to furn them on then walt a week or ten days longer.

A Self-Feeding Crib.

A combined corn crib and feeding shed is shown in the sketch. The feed bunk is covered by a lean-to shed id-



PERSONA SERVICE AND CORN CRES.

feet wide. Small doors opening into the crib every two feet just over the manger allow the corn to come out without shoveling. This shed should be built on the south side of the crib in a bright, sunny place. This arrangement is a great labor saver and quite an aid in had weather, especially if the ends are inclosed.—Farm and Home,

Uses of Corn.

The Crop Reporter is endeavoring to tell for what purposes corn is used. In the year 1800, so this authority states, the total crop was 2,066,000,000 bushels. Of this crop 241,000,000 bushels were consumed in the fleur and grist mills; 8,000,000 in manufacture of starch, 9,-000,000 for mall Hypers, 17,000,000 to distilling of Honors, 40,000,000 for glucose, 190,000,000 for export, and 13, 000,000 for seed. This accounts for only 19.3 per cent of the entire crop. most of the remainder being used for feeding purposes. The more one studies the corn crop, the more interesting it becomes. Its magnitude as a foodgiver and labor-employer grows with every observation one makes of the corn crop.-Springfield Register.

Form Wells.

Unsanitary dairy wells are a menace to health, and as the country becomes more closely settled more and more care is necessary to provide good water. laboratory reports that of 153 wells on and so less sugar is required. near-by dairy farms, examined by the inspectors, only eleven were found to be safe for domestic purposes. In all cases the safe wells were those line.t with cement, with cement covers, with a protecting flange of cement several feet out from the well. In some of the wells used for washing milk utensils, a high percentage of colon bacterla were found, and in some cases manure could be detected microscopically and by the odor.

Millet for Late Crops.

Millet as a late crop to plant in case of the failure of the corn crop or failure to get corn planted at all, is recommended by the Ohio station. The earlier sorts can be seeded through July, and make fair fields. Hay is the most common use made of the crop, and for this it compares favorably with timothy, both in composition and digestibility. It is good feed for cattle, horses and sheep, but when overripe should not be fed to horses exclusively, as it affects the kidneys. Millet is also grown for pasture seed, and even for silage. As a soil cleaner, it is also almost equal to a summer fallow.

Land Polsoning.

No one knows so well as the practical farmer how rapidly a naturally fertile soil may be exhausted by cultivation. In this country the tobacco lands of Virginia afford an example of this rapid decline in fertility. The abandoned New England farms, too, help to lliustrate the effects produced by the constant cultivation of the same fields. Land that once yielded crops as if by magic now requires an artificial prepabout forty minutes the curding mess or for his streamous labor in the field. hot butter,



Chill Con Carne.

Cut a round steak into inch pieces and put it into the frying pan with a tablespoonful of hot drippings, a cup of holling water and two tablespoons fuls of rice. Cover closely and cook steadily until the meat is tender. Itsmove the seeds and a part of the rind from two large dried red peppers, cover these with water, add garile and thome to taste, simmer until soft, then squeeza all the water from the peppers and throw them away. Season the water with onion Juice and pepper, add to the cooked ment-and-rice mixture, but up and serve. If not thick enough add a little flour.

Scotch Shortbread.

Cream one cup of butter and then beat in one-half cup of sugar, using a light brown soft sugar, for granulated or white sugar will not make the cake or brend as it should be. Work in flour In which is mixed a level teaspoon of clonamon, until a dough is made that can be flattened out. Cut the edges with a pastry Jagger to leave a crimped edge.

Cheese Cake.

Cream well together a pound each or freeh butter and of granulated sugar, beat fute it the yelks of six oggs, whipped light, and put over the fire in a perfectly clean pan. Stir community until smooth and thick, edd a grated nutmeg and set aside in cool. celd pour into small pans fined with rich peatry and bake until the crust and filling are brown.

Onlone in Cream.

Remove the brown skins from the onlone and sook in cold water for ten minutes. Drain, cover with boiling salted water and boil until very tender. If the outers are strong change the water once while cooking. When door drain thoroughly, add enough thin cream to moisten well and season with butter, sait if necessary and pepper, Heat but do not boil.

Corn Fritters.

Drain the liquer from a can of corn and turn out the contents for several hours before using. Chop the corn fine. Make a batter of a cupful of milk, one beaten egg, salt to taste and enough flour to make a thin batter. Into this best the chopped corn and while hard for severel minutes. Cook on a hot griddle as you would pan-

Cheese Omelet. Break six eggs into a dish and stre them gently. Add one half cupful of grated or eldpped cheese, salt and pepper to taste, and one fourth tenspoonful of extract of best dissolved to one tablespoonful of boiling milk. Melt two fablespoonfuls of butter in the panturn in the mixture and cook slowly, Cut in quarters and turn when brown,

Removing Acidity from Fruit.

Not every person knows that if pinch of taking sods be added to a rhubarh pie or podding it not only improves the flavor, but also economizes the sugar. The soda, immediately the rhubarb commences to cook, mixes with the acid, and the two start to offervesce. The director of the Chicago hygicule Most of the sold is then counteracted,

Floating Island.

Into a pint of rich cream, sweetened to taste, stir sufficient current jelly to make it a pretty color. Spread allow of sponge cake with marmalade, pile them evenly in a glass dish and pour the pink cream over them. Flavor another plat of rich cream with lemon, sweeten it, and whip to a stiff froth, then heap on the cake.

Fried Cakes.

One cup of sugar, one egg, two cupof sour milk, four tablespoonfuls of melted shortening, two teaspoonfuls of sods, one-half teaspoonful of nutmeg. a quarter-teaspoonful of sait, flour to make a soft dough. Mix and roll out, having the dough as soft as it can be handled. Fry in deep, boiling fat.

Mulled Cider.

Heat the cider to the bolling polm, sweeten to taste, thicken with flour to the consistency of cream, beating out all the lumps. To make this property moisten the floor with a little milk, Put over the fire again, bring to the boiling point and remove and serve,

Pudding Sauce.

Cream together one cup of sugar, two tablespoonfuls of butter and two tablespoonfuls of flour, then add a pint of boiling water, put over the fire and boil for three minutes, stirring. Add the fuice of a lemon and serve.

Cabbage Meat.

Take one and one-half pounds of round steak ground, two pounds of park steak ground, one cup of soaked bread erumbs, two eggs, sait, pepper to taste. warm place in a can of whole milk. In aration before it will reward the farm- into a boiled cabbage leaf and fry in Mix well and shape into bails, Roll