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Aunt Diana

The Sunshine of the Family

CHAPTER IX.

Miss Carrington received a letter from Alison soon after this, the conclusion of which made her smile; but that was not Alison's fault. Roger had taken possession of the half-finished sheet of note paper and had filled it after his own fashion, adding a lengthy message from Eudel. Alison protested in vain; the letter must go with Roger's appendix or else a day's post would be lost.

"We have good times now and then, and get up a laugh and astonish ourselves. One thing, I have enjoyed my breakfast for the last three weeks. No more lukewarm coffee, poured out with an acidulated smile, we have the real thing in smiles now. There, I think I have inflicted enough on you, so I will subscribe myself,

"Your affectionate and grateful nephew," "ROGER."

When Miss Carrington read this letter to Mr. Moore, on the old bench by the river, a pleased look came over the old man's face.

"I like that lad," he said, striking his ivory-headed stick into the ground. "I remember his voice pleased me when he was here some years ago; a good honest voice it was. Mark my words, Miss Diana, our little neebaw is fulfilling her mission."

"I think Roger is all the happier for having his sister," returned Miss Carrington, with a sigh.

"Oh," he said, turning his slighted face toward her quickly, "you are missing the child, and so am I. Sunny is beyond our reach just now; one can not help wishing her back sometimes. For my part, I had no idea how sorely I should miss my little pupil."

"I always knew what her loss would be to me," returned Miss Carrington, with some emotion; "that is the worst of isolating one's affections. I have so few who are absolutely necessary to me; only you and Greville and Allie—three out of this world full of millions; it seems wrong somehow."

"The fewer to love—the fewer to leave," replied the old man, somewhat dreamily.

"Do you know," observed Miss Carrington, a little abruptly, "that Greville is very angry with me for sending Allie away?"

"Oh, he has written to you, has he?" with a half smile, for he had already received a stormy letter from his grandson on the same subject.

"Yes; he is as indignant as possible about the sacrifice, as he terms it. He calls me shabby for not letting him into the secret; he declares he shall go round by Chesterton on his way home and hand it out with Alison; but I have put a stop to that."

"What! you deprived him and Sunny of that poor little pleasure? What a hard-hearted woman you are, Miss Diana! and yet you were young yourself once."

"My dear friend, it would not do at all," returned Miss Carrington, in her most resolute tone. "You spoil that boy so dreadfully that you give in to all his whims. You want me to keep you all in order."

"But where would be the harm?" persisted Mr. Moore, smiling. "Just a call and a chat; why, it would do Sunny good."

"No, no! it would only unsettle her, Greville shall go down to The Holmes some day, but not just yet. Allie will get on better if we leave her entirely to herself the first few months. Why, unless things go very wrong, I do not intend to go down myself until next spring. But Greville, oh, no! I told him on no account to do it."

"And you expect him to obey you, I suppose?"

"Oh, yes, he will obey me now. Later on, perhaps—but we shall see. I am sure it would be only cruel kindness for Greville to unsettle her. She frets enough after us. I am sure of that, and seeing him will only bring us more vividly before her. Besides, there are other reasons; but, my good old friend, you do not often distrust my wisdom."

"Nor do I now," he returned, slowly. "I was only putting myself in my boy's place, and thinking how he must long for a glimpse of Sunny. Have it your own way, Miss Diana; Greville is almost as much your boy as he is mine, and I know you would not cross him if you could help it."

"No, indeed," she replied, very gently; "I think you, and Greville, too, may trust me." And then the conversation dropped.

CHAPTER X.

"Roger, does it not seem strange that Miss Hardwick never brings her sister to The Holmes?"

"Well, no, Allie. I am too profound a student of human nature to think anything strange. You women know how to tyrannize over one another. Revenge is sweet, even to the feminine mind. Poor Miss Anna is expiating the offense of having excited our commiseration. The fat has gone forth—her days at The Holmes are numbered."

"I think Roger has a fancy for the poor little thing, and I hoped to have derived some use to her—she seems so utterly devoid of friends."

Alison and Roger were walking down a country road. The evening was sultry, and Roger had invited his sister to accompany him in one of their pleasant

strolls. There was a moment's silence after Roger's speech, and then he began again—but this time there was a glimmer of mischief in his eyes.

"Allie, what should you say if I should promise to bring you and Miss Anna together in less than half an hour?"

"I should say you were a magician," returned Alison.

"Nevertheless, the thing shall be done," was his oracular reply, and then he said quickly, "Look at the clouds, Allie; we shall have a thunder storm directly." Alison gave a startled glance at the sky; there was no mistaking the gathering blackness overhead.

"What shall we do?" she exclaimed, in a disconcerted voice. "I have my new hat on, and this nice clean cambric, and we have no umbrellas, and there is not a house in sight."

"All right," was Roger's cheerful response; "things are just as they should be. Walk as fast as you can; in less than ten minutes we shall be at the gate of Maplewood. Could anything be more cleverly arranged? Of course we must take refuge from the impending storm. They will be compelled to house us for an hour at least."

"Oh, Roger, what a good idea," exclaimed Alison, laughing. "Please let us make haste, though, or we shall never reach Maplewood in time." And Alison quickened her walk into a run. But the heavy drops pelted on her before she took refuge in the porch.

Before Roger could lift his hand to the knocker, the door was swung open, and Anna stood on the threshold.

"I saw you both running down the road," she exclaimed, eagerly. "I knew you would take refuge here from the rain; there is going to be such a heavy storm, and I was just beginning to feel frightened at the thought of being alone in it, but I don't mind a bit now."

"Do you mean that Mrs. Hardwick and your sister are out?" asked Roger, as he shook Alison's light mantle, which was already wet.

"Yes, they are out dining. There is to be a dance afterward, so they will be very late. Do you mind my taking you into the morning room? I have some work that I must finish, or Eva will be disappointed, but I can talk to you all the same. Oh, it is so nice to see you again," looking at Alison affectionately.

"Is it not nice to see me, too?" asked Roger, in a comical tone. "I don't think you ought to leave me out in the cold, Miss Anna."

Anna laughed and blushed at this, then she said, very prettily, in her childish way, "Oh, I am glad to see you, too, but I never thought of telling you so. Will you ring, Mr. Roger? and then Morton will bring us some tea. Please take that easy chair by the window, Miss Merle."

It is Eva's favorite seat, because there is such a pretty view of the garden.

"No, indeed, I am going to help you," returned Alison, laying her hat aside, and pulling off her long gloves. "Oh, you poor child, what a task!" as she inspected Anna's work. She was trimming an Indian muslin gown with coffee-colored lace.

"Yes, is it not pretty?" returned Anna, innocently. "Eva means to wear it at our garden party on Thursday. You and Mr. Roger are both coming, are you not?"

"We are not invited," returned Alison, a little gravely, as she took a thimble from her pocket, and helped herself unasked to a needle and thread. "I am going on with that blouse," she continued, quietly, "so you have nothing to do but to talk to me and Roger."

"Oh, how kind you are!" returned Anna, gratefully. "The thunder always makes my head ache a little, and I have been working all the afternoon, and it was so hot; indeed, I am interpreting herself. 'Eva was writing out your notes of invitation to-day. I think she gave them to Mabel. I am sorry,' flushing a little as she spoke, "that you should have them so late, but Eva is always so busy."

"So is some one else always busy," observed Roger, with a pitying glance at the girl's tired face. Both he and Alison thought she looked thinner and paler than when they saw her last; her blue eyes looked large and heavy, and the veins of the forehead were marked too clearly; her fair hair was strained from her face and coiled somewhat untidy, and her gray linen dress looked tumbled and far from fresh.

"I am afraid you will have to house us for a good hour or more," Roger observed, "for the weather means mischief, and in this climate it never rains but it pours, so while Allie does your work you may as well make yourself comfortable. I suppose you will not mind my going into the library for a book, for I am not much of a hand at talk? You may summon me when tea is ready." And Roger marched off, muttering to himself: "Two is company, three is none; she shall not be bothered with making company talk for me, poor little girl!"

"How good he is!" whispered Anna, almost before the door had closed behind him; "he thinks I want to talk to you alone, and so I do. Oh, how quickly you work! your needle seems to fly. My head was aching so with stooping over the muslin that I could hardly see, but when I told Eva so she said I was always full of fancies, and that I was so dreadfully idle. But I don't think I really am idle, do you?"

"No, indeed," returned Alison, with something of Aunt Diana's abruptness; "I am sure you have been working too hard, you look so thin and unsubstantial. Tell me, Anna, why have you never come to see me again, as you promised?"

"Eva does not want me to come; at least, I think so; she always raises difficulties when I ask to accompany her; and—and—her eyes filling with tears—she was so angry that afternoon when you and Mr. Roger were so kind to me; she said I was so forward that people could not help noticing me, and that she was sure Mr. Roger thought so."

"Never mind, Anna dear—may I call you Anna? and please remember I am only a girl myself, and my name is Alison, and not Miss Merle. Never mind, what your sister says is not true; people often say things when they are put out which they do not really mean. No one could think you forward; I am sure Roger would laugh at such an idea if I were to tell him."

"You must not do that," returned Anna, quietly; "he would be so angry with Eva; they are not good friends, you know. Oh, how glad I am to tell you this; it takes quite a load off my mind. I was afraid you would think me so ungrateful after pressing me so kindly to come; I might have thought I did not care—I ought about it so often."

"You must never do that again," replied Alison, quite pained at this; "if you do not come to The Holmes I shall quite understand where the fault lies; we will not make things worse by fretting over them. We must try and be patient for a little—things may be better by and by." The girl continued to chat until the tea came in and it was time to summon Roger. He was not sorry to be called. The library was rather a gloomy apartment this wet evening, as it looked on the darkest part of the shrubbery, the evergreens coming far too close to the windows. But, as no one sat in the room, this was not considered a grievance. He thought the morning room looked snug and cozy when he went back to it. The muslin dress still reposed on the center table, but a smaller one was placed in the bay window, round which the three young people were gathered.

Anna quite forgot her headache and fear of the thunder as she performed her simple duties of hostess. She looked so pleased when Roger told her that he had never tasted better tea, that he laughingly accused her of never having entertained company before. To his surprise she answered him quite seriously, "Oh, no; I never had a tea party before. How nice it is! Eva has her friends sometimes, but I do not seem to know any girls."

"Oh, young men," put in Roger mischievously. "I seemed bent on teasing her to-night."

"Well, there is Cousin Anthony, you know," she replied in her usual naive fashion; "he is a young man, of course; but I don't think he would like to come to my tea parties. Eva always says that I am such a child that people don't care to talk to me. I am afraid I am not very clever."

"I am glad of that," returned Roger, promptly. "I detest people who think themselves clever. You are quite clever enough for Alison and me. By the bye, Miss Anna, how do you get on with your Latin?"

"Oh, pretty well," she answered, with one of her varying blushes, which made her almost pretty. "I have so little time and you have not given me a lesson for so long, Mr. Roger."

"The rain is over now," observed Alison, in a regretful voice, "and it is growing so dark, Roger, we ought not to stay any longer."

"Never mind, I shall see you on Thursday," replied Anna. "I am looking forward to the day so much. I have a new dress, too," she continued, as Roger left the room to find Alison's mantle; "it is not so pretty as Eva's dress—such a beautiful muslin; mine is only cream-colored cloth."

"I am sure you will look very nice, and I shall bring you some flowers," returned Alison, kindly, with a vivid recollection how well Anna had looked with the knot of roses fastened in her gray dress. Then they joined Roger in the hall.

"Well, Allie," he observed, as they walked briskly down the wet road, "have you had a nice time with your new friend?"

"Yes, indeed, Roger. I am so thankful for the rain. I am getting quite fond of Anna. There is so much goodness under that shy, childish manner."

"I know you would appreciate her," he returned, heartily. "Poor little girl! One is glad to do anything to help her. There is not much a fellow like me can do, except say a kind word when people snub her, or leave her to sit alone in the corners. That is almost all I have done."

"But you teach her Latin, Roger?"

"Nonsense!" was the hasty reply. "A pretty sort of teaching. The poor little thing once confided to me her difficulties, and so whenever an opportunity came I gave her a quarter of an hour's construing. She used to come rather often to The Holmes once upon a time. Well, I shall leave her in your hands now, Allie. A girl friend of her own age will be far better for her."

"I am sure you have been good to her, Roger, or she would not be so grateful to you." But as Roger only said "Nonsense" rather impatiently, Alison, with her usual tact, changed the subject.

(To be continued.)

Horse with a Speaking Tube.

Perhaps the only horse in the world provided with a "speaking" tube direct from its stall to its owner's living apartments is Birthday, a hunter, owned by Mrs. Walter Wadhams-Petrie, of London. Hearing it neigh at night, she concluded to have an arrangement constructed so that she could speak to it from her rooms. "Now," said she to a visitor recently, lifting up a trapdoor six inches square, which was hidden by a Turkish rug, "when I say, 'Hello, boy!' you will hear Birthday respond with a cheerful whinney." According to a writer in a London paper, no sooner had Mrs. Wadhams-Petrie spoken than the horse set up a series of whinnies.

A good game cock has no white in its plumage, and hence the synonym for cowardice—"to show the white feather."

EVENTS OF THE DAY

Newsy Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

PREPARED FOR THE BUSY READER

Less Important but Not Less Interesting Happenings from Points Outside the State.

Coreans fear Japanese will try to kidnap their ruler.

Japan is alarmed at possible hostile legislation in California.

The house committee has decided on a great increase in the navy.

Only three men escaped from the Zeigler, Ill., coal mine alive.

A 6-year old boy has been killed at Stockton, Cal., by an unloaded gun.

A Chicago man will try to cross the continent in a balloon. He will start from Los Angeles.

The Interstate Commerce commission says the railroads did not lose very heavily during the recent money panic.

The cold spell seems to have been broken in Montana, although the temperature is still below zero in many places.

It will be necessary for the government to help many Indians, especially in Montana, on account of the severe weather.

Many bodies of Italian earthquake victims are being mutilated by robbers, and officials are shooting all thieves on sight.

Government survey of soils is declared a failure.

Thaw has been granted a trial on the question of his sanity.

Chins will send diplomats to this country to study commerce.

Congress will come north in a private car to take the oath of office.

Many trains are snowbound on the Northern Pacific in Montana.

The senate will rigidly investigate all appointees by the president.

Holland, France and Great Britain are to unite in the Venezuela affair.

Taft will announce no more cabinet selections till after the inauguration.

Senator Davis, of Arkansas, has blood poisoning, and may lose an arm.

Fire destroyed an entire block in the business portion of Thompson Falls, Montana.

Washington proposes to reopen the Sand Island boundary dispute which was won by Oregon.

Harriman lines are to be continuous from Seattle to Mexico City, according to present plans.

The snow area over the Pacific Northwest is gradually extending south.

The blizzard in Montana has blocked the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern.

The Italian parliament is in session to consider measures regarding the earthquake.

A sudden thaw would result in bad floods all along the Columbia and Willamette rivers.

The government is piling up evidence that the Harriman merger throtles competition.

San Francisco will aid Portland in securing the Liberty bell for the rose festival next June.

Ice floes in the Columbia river have stopped all boats and are growing in thickness and extent.

A woman left \$2,000 worth of jewels in a Los Angeles bank and officials have been unable to locate the owner.

A notorious criminal has been released from the Montana penitentiary by mistake. Officers are making a futile attempt to locate him.

A Seattle man takes a swim in Puget sound every morning and does not give up the practice even with the temperature down to 14 degrees below freezing.

A mail sack containing bonds, etc., worth \$200,000 was stolen from a delivery wagon in Paris in broad daylight. The police have not the slightest clew to the thieves.

The queen dowager of Spain is seriously ill.

A new Franco-American treaty of extradition has been signed.

J. P. Morgan & Co. will loan \$22,500,000 to the Bolivian government.

Owing to a shortage of the crop, an advance will be made in the price of brooms.

Richard Croker has begun the erection of a residence at West Palm Beach, Florida.

FATAL MINE EXPLOSION.

Twenty Four Dead in Leiter's Famous Illinois Colliery.

Zeigler, Ill., Jan. 12.—The series of mishaps in Joe Leiter's famous \$1,000,000 colliery here during the last few years reached a climax shortly after 1 o'clock this morning, when a mysterious explosion killed 24 men.

Nineteen dead have been recovered, five are missing and are undoubtedly dead, and two are injured critically.

This is the second serious disaster in the Zeigler Coal company's property, which has been the scene of several minor fatalities and where for more than two years a desperate labor war was waged as the result of a strike. An explosion in 1905 killed 35 men at work in the mine.

Joseph Leiter and his bride of half a year were here when the explosion happened. Leiter came to town several weeks ago to direct the fight on a fire in the workings, which, after a month's battle, was got under control Friday night. Leiter himself conducted the first relief party into the mine. The first coal hoisted out of the shaft in more than six weeks was brought up yesterday and it was expected to put the full force of men at work during the next few days.

The explosion was remarkable in that except for the many dead it left scarcely a trace and the interior of the mine tonight shows no sign of damage.

ONE-MAN RULE WEARIED.

Venezuela Grew Tired of Government of Castro.

Paris, Jan. 12.—Jose de J. Paul, special envoy of Venezuela, arrived here this evening from Bordeaux and was warmly greeted by a score of Venezuelan.

M. Paul declared Castro's downfall was the result of a conflict between the country's ambition to carry on peaceful internal and foreign policies and the policies of Castro, which were rapidly jeopardizing Venezuelan independence.

"What was the real cause of Castro's fall?" M. Paul was asked.

"It was brought about," replied the envoy, "by the necessity of averting a revolution. It must be remembered that Holland practically abrogated the protocol of 1894, whereby she had undertaken to prohibit traffic in arms and prevent filibustering expeditions and revolutionary outbreaks. Having thus abrogated the treaty, the presence of Holland's warships would have rendered it impossible to stop filibustering."

"Castro's present standing in Venezuela," M. Paul said, "is that of a man opposed to his country's aspirations. Venezuelans are weary of one man's domination."

M. Paul expects to open negotiations with the French government within a few days.

WILL BE NO PLAGUE.

Stringent Sanitary Measures Taken at Messina.

Messina, Jan. 12.—General Mazza has adapted stringent measures to protect people and property. In addition to establishing a police service around the city, he has issued orders that any person found excavating without a permit shall be shot.

General Mazza declared that under the guise of rescuers, many thieves were committing robberies.

Sanitary conditions have greatly improved and it is now believed that there is little danger of the spread of disease.

The American relief ship Bayern, flying the Red Cross flag, arrived Friday. A small amount of clothing was sent to the American consulate and the remainder of the stores are being distributed to ports along the south coast.

The United States supply ship Culgo, which arrived from Port Said Friday, carried 150 tons of provisions and was well stocked with blankets and wearing apparel. The stores were sent ashore and distributed.

The living are still being taken from the ruins. Ten days ago it was thought that all buried under the wreckage must have perished, but several persons taken out Saturday were found to be in extraordinary good condition.

Work for American Ships.

Rome, Jan. 12.—The arrival of the American squadron under Rear Admiral Sperry has been anxiously awaited. The prefect of Naples has been ordered to notify the king when the squadron reaches port, as his majesty is anxious to meet the American admiral, Ambassador Griseom having already arranged an audience. It is expected that the king will proceed at once to Naples, as he wishes to participate personally in any arrangements which may be made for the reception of the American warships.

Night Riders Held in Jail.

Jackson, Tenn., Jan. 12.—The six Night Riders sentenced to death at Union City and two others sentenced to 20 years in the state penitentiary, have been placed in jail here and will be held in close confinement to await the action of the Supreme court, which will meet in this city next April.

PUGET SOUND QUAKE

People Are Terror Stricken and Flee to Places of Safety.

SHOCKS EXTEND OVER WIDE AREA

Water Pipes Broken in Port Townsend, Houses Flooded—Alaska Cable is Snapped.

Seattle, Jan. 12.—Just on the eve of sending \$10,000 to the quake-stricken inhabitants of Europe for relief from devastation and horror, the entire Northwest awoke to the realization yesterday afternoon that it had a fair sized tremor of its own to cope with, and there were many who showed perceptible signs of being panic stricken.

From exactly 3:50 o'clock and until seven minutes and 30 seconds after that time, the seismograph at the university station showed activity. During this time for at least 15 seconds, the movement was so strong as to cause many persons living in tall buildings to flee into the halls and wildly attempt to get on the ground floor in elevators. The movement was north and south.

While no damage was reported in Seattle, Northwestern cities as far away as towns in Northern British Columbia report unusual conditions. Cities in Northwestern Washington all were affected and from Blaine comes the report that there are but two brick and concrete structures in the whole town that do not show the signs of the shake. These appear to be running from a fine point to the width of an inch.

At Port Angeles the shock was extremely severe. It began with a heavy and accelerating rumbling and wound up with two distinct shocks within a second's time. Clocks were stopped and dishes on plate racks and bric-a-brac were thrown on the floor. Ware on store shelves were rattled and thrown down. Almost the entire population became terror stricken and ran into the streets. Plastering left the walls in the three story buildings and some who were walking the streets claim to have been almost taken off their feet.

The same condition is reported from Fort Worden, near Port Townsend, and at the fork it is reported that stoves fell, bringing down pipe and all. Anacortes reports a shock lasting about 15 seconds, with no damage. Bellingham reports a severe disturbance and a cracked plate glass or two.

At 2:05 o'clock the Alaska cable went down and by cable authorities it is hinted that severe shocks have been going on all day in that portion of the country.

A general shaking up of the premises occurred in many parts of Port Townsend where water pipes had been frozen in the prevailing spell of cold weather. The force of the earthquake shock burst the mains, flooding the houses before a stoppage of the intake could be effected. For a time it was feared that the city's entire water supply must be shut off, so great was the damage done.

BAY CITY CHEERS HENEY.

Prosecutor Says He Has Returned to Put All Grafters in Jail.

San Francisco, Jan. 12.—A cheering crowd of several hundred persons gathered in the Ferry building last night to greet Assistant District Attorney F. J. Heney, who, with his wife, returned last night from an absence of several weeks in the East. The reception accorded the prosecutor was entirely informal, but very enthusiastic. In a short speech he declared that he had returned to press the graft prosecution cases "until every grafter in San Francisco is put where he belongs."

"I will take personal charge of the prosecution of Mr. Calhoun tomorrow," said Heney. "I am in splendid shape physically and am eager to resume my work here."

Special police precautions were taken to guard the attorney against any repetition of the assault upon him. Twenty-five patrolmen gathered closely about him, but at his own request refrained from forcing the crowd away to any distance.

Congressmen Like Canal.

Havana, Jan. 12.—The congressmen who recently inspected the Isthmian canal arrived here today from Colon. Representative Hepburn said: "We were greatly pleased with the inspection of the canal, the completion of which we believe to be feasible within four years, if necessary. There is no question about the feasibility of the Gatun dam."