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Aunt Diana

The Sunshine of the Family

"Oh, Mabel, my poor dear!" And Alison knelt down by her. She had not noticed how helplessly the left arm hung down, and how Mabel would not let her touch it.

"It is all bruised and cut," she said, her forehead contracting heavily with pain. "The doctor must see it presently, when he has finished in the other room; not now. Oh, Alison, where are you going? You shall not disturb them. What does it matter? If only— But here her fast whitening lips refused to utter her fear.

"Let me go, darling," returned Alison, anxiously. "I will not disturb them, you may quite trust me." And without waiting for Mabel's answer she slipped away.

As she entered the dressing room, the stranger, a dark, grave-looking young man, came out of her father's room. He listened to Alison's account, and promised to attend to her sister as soon as possible.

"We must finish the examination," he said, dismissing her, "but I will come as soon as I can. I thought there was something wrong, but she deceived us by hiding her arm under her mantle. She was bruised, that was all, she told us. Keep her quiet, and I will be with you directly."

Mabel was leaning back in her chair, with her eyes closed, but as Alison entered she opened them full on her sister, and the blank miserable look in them convinced Alison that she was dreading the worst.

"Do not look so, Mabel, darling," she said, kissing her softly. "Indeed we do not know; they have told me nothing. Dear papa is in God's hands; we must leave him there, and hope for the best."

A low groan broke from Mabel's lips. "Oh, it is easy for you; even if the worst comes, you can bear it; you have nothing with which to reproach yourself. If he dies, I shall have killed him. How am I to go on living, and know that?"

And here she burst out into hoarse sobs. "Mabel, my poor dear, oh! how am I to comfort you?" exclaimed Alison, unable to restrain her own tears at the sight of her sister's anguish.

"You can not comfort me," returned the unhappy girl. "What is the pain of my broken arm and my bruises compared to what I shall feel if he dies, and I am not able even to tell him that I am sorry for my deceit and disobedience? And I would not say so, because he was angry. Oh, papa, papa, and I loved you so!"

And the poor child hid her face on Alison's shoulder. It seemed a relief to her to pour out her feelings. He had been so angry, and she would not own herself in the wrong, and then the horrible accident had happened, and she thought at first her father was killed. "When they said he was alive, and they must bring him home, and see what could be done, I thought I would not add to the trouble, and so I managed to hide my broken arm." But here she broke off, as Mr. Cameron entered the room.

"Papa?" she said, faintly, as he came up to her.

"His consciousness is returning; we shall know more to-morrow. It is not the head, as we feared," he said, evasively; "but now I must look at your arm, please. Your friend Dr. Greenwood will be here directly, and we will soon put it right." But, in spite of his cheerful words, "Poor child!" came pityingly from his lips as the blackened shoulder was revealed to his view. Mabel must have suffered exquisite pain during the drive home. The arm was broken, and the shoulder dislocated, and the bruised condition of the flesh filled Alison with horror.

It was a painful ordeal for Alison, but she bore it as bravely as she could. Roger had remained with her father; Miss Leigh was not in a condition to render any assistance; the sudden confusion had brought on accession of pain, and she could only lay her throbbing head on the pillow, and lie there in utter helplessness. There was no one but herself to wait upon the doctors and receive their directions, the very exigency of the case made her helpful. Her one thought was that she must not hinder their work; there was little for her to do. At the first touch of her wounded arm Mabel had fainted again. Alison could not have borne to witness the poor child's sufferings. Perhaps Dr. Greenwood knew this, for he contrived some errand that detained her for a few minutes out of the room. When she returned the worst seemed over, but the faintness continued, and it was only slowly and by degrees that Alison, with Sarah's help, could assist her to undress and lie down, after which a sedative was to be administered, as the pain of the bruises and the misery of her mind would effectively hinder sleep.

As soon as she could leave her in Sarah's charge, Alison stole into her father's dressing room. Dr. Greenwood came to her at once.

"My dear," he said, taking her hand, "this is a sad business, but, thank God, things are not so bad as they seemed at first. Your father must have received a blow; he was stunned, but consciousness has returned, and he has spoken. What a fear now is something different. He seems unable to move; but this may be due to the shock and temporary exhaustion. There are symptoms that make us hopeful that the full extent of mischief may not be realized. We shall know more in

a few days; but he will require the greatest care. To-morrow I shall send in a nurse from the infirmary. Do you think you and your brother can manage to-night?"

"Oh, yes," returned Alison, with a painful catch in her breath; it seemed to her as though she were passing through some hideous nightmare; the very horror seemed to numb her sensibilities. She understood that night how people could live through terrible scenes; the very intensity of pain deadened the anguish.

Dr. Greenwood thought her a very brave girl. She listened quietly to his directions, but he took her hand once, and felt her pulse, and then he kindly bade her take some food and wine before she went into her father's room, and as Roger came out that moment he repeated the charge to him.

"Come, Alison," said Roger, taking her arm. "Dr. Greenwood will stay with father until we come back." And he led her away.

Alison noticed with some surprise that there was a sort of meal laid in the dining room; she had forgotten the early supper had been placed there a couple of hours ago in preparation for her father. Roger carved some chicken and brought it to her.

"You must try and eat, Alison, and I will do the same," he said, with some attempt at cheerfulness. "We have a long night before us, and we must husband our strength."

Alison felt the force of his argument; nevertheless, the food remained on her plate.

"Roger, how had you look?" she said, suddenly. "But I do not wonder at it. Oh! what a dreadful evening we have had; and I can not imagine how it happened."

"Dr. Cameron was there, and he told me," returned Roger, shading his face from the light, as though it hurt him. "It was not a collision; something must have given way—the coupling chain, they think—and they were going down a steep incline at express speed. Dr. Cameron says some of the carriages went over the embankment, and were completely wrecked; one or two were turned entirely over. He was in the same compartment with father and Mabel. They felt a jolting sensation, and the next moment they were thrown from their seats, the carriage side was completely smashed, and they were all flung in a heap. Dr. Cameron was on the top, and was happily unhurt, with the exception of a few bruises; father was underneath him; Mabel struggled up somehow unhurt, and came to father, and no one knew she was much hurt."

"Oh, Roger, how terrible!"

"Yes, it does not do to talk of it, and hardly to think of it. Now, Alison, if you have finished, will you go upstairs. By the way, where is Miss Leigh?"

"Oh, I ought to have gone to her," exclaimed Alison. "How dreadful! She is lying there, and not to be able to help us! She has been suffering from one of her sick headaches, and, of course, all this will make it worse. Wait for me a moment, dear. I will just speak to her."

"Is that you, Alison?" asked the governess, in a feeble voice, as the girl came to her bedside. "I know all about it, dear, Eliza has told me. Poor children, poor children! and I can not help you."

"Roger is good and thoughtful; we shall manage nicely to-night, and Sarah will watch Mabel. You must not trouble, dear Miss Leigh; to-morrow you will be better, and then we shall be sure of your help."

"You must not stay now. Thank you for coming, my dear, but you must go to your father." And Alison was thankful to be dismissed.

In another moment she was leaning over her father. He unclosed his eyes as he heard her light footsteps, and a faint smile came to his lips.

"How is your sister?" he whispered.

"Dear papa," she returned, tenderly, "how happy Mabel will be to know you asked after her! She is lying quite quietly, the sedative is lulling her, but she is not asleep."

"Poor child!" was all his reply, and then he closed his eyes again, but as Alison withdrew into the shadow of the curtain tears of thankfulness came to her eyes; there was no bitterness in her father's heart against poor Mabel. "As a father pitieth his children," the words came to her mind, ah! "so might their Heavenly Father have pity on them."

CHAPTER XVI.

The dreary night watching was a new experience in Alison's life, for she had been too young at the time of her mother's last illness to share in the long and tedious nursing; the silence and inaction made the hours drag heavily. Roger, fatigued with his day's work, was sleeping heavily with his head against the wall. Alison pitied his weary position, and fetched a pillow from the other room and put it gently behind his head.

Once or twice she went across the passage to look at Mabel. She was glad to find her sleeping. Sarah was at her post, sitting blot upright and nodding. Now and then her father spoke a few words; once he asked what the doctors had said. Alison was thankful that they had not informed him of their fears.

"They do not seem to know, papa," she returned, gently. "They think you have a great shock, and you are suffering from nervous exhaustion. They will tell better by and by."

"There seems something wrong with my limbs," he muttered uneasily; "you are sure you do not know what they think?"

"Quite sure, dear papa," she replied, so earnestly that he could not disbelieve her, "but I hope and trust," her lips quivering a little, "that you may soon be better."

"You are a good girl, Alison; your mother always said so, and if I am spared—" He sighed heavily, and turned his face away; and Alison, remembering the doctor's injunction, dared not say

any more, lest it should increase his agitation; she only took his hand and softly laid her cheek against it, as though she would show by this action a child's love and devotion. Her touch seemed to quiet him, and by and by he dozed a little.

Morning came at last, and Roger roused himself with difficulty.

Alison felt weak and jaded; the strain was beginning to tell even on her vigorous vitality. She was glad the night's inaction was over, but she felt too weary for the day's work. But Roger had not forgotten her; he came back presently with a refreshed look on his face, and told her that breakfast was all ready in the dressing room.

"A strong cup of coffee has made me a different man," he said, cheerfully; "you must try my recipe, Alison." And Alison found the benefit of his prescription.

Her hands were soon full of business. Dr. Greenwood came early, bringing the new nurse with him, and Alison had to make arrangements for the stranger's comfort. She seemed a pleasant, capable woman, with a neat figure, and a bright face that prepossessed Alison in her favor. She took possession at once of her patient, after a feeble protest on his part that he objected to nurses, but after the first few minutes he ceased to grumble.

Dr. Greenwood soon convinced him that Roger was too busy, and Alison was too young for such a responsibility; besides, the chief care of her sister must devolve on her.

Mabel's sleep had not refreshed her as they hoped; the pain of her bruises was making her feverish. She could not turn in her bed without suffering, and her anxiety for her father added to her discomfort. Alison tried to console her, and Miss Leigh, who was sufficiently recovered to sit in her room, spoke reassuring words to her; but it was evident that Mabel could take no comfort; only when

the soft curly curls were smoothed, she showed the broad white forehead. A different Mabel lay there, with the poor wounded arm folded on her breast, and all the little vanities laid aside. As Alison stood looking at her, Mabel raised her uninjured arm with a sudden movement toward Alison, and in another moment the sisters were clasping each other close.

"Oh, my poor dear, my poor dear!" whispered Alison, in the softest, most pitying voice. Mabel kissed her hastily, and then seemed as though she would push her away, only Alison held her still.

"No, I don't deserve it; please don't be so good to me. I have been altogether horrible ever since you came home."

"Never mind all that now, dear."

"Yes, but I must mind it," turning restlessly away and then uttering a low groan. "Oh, this pain, Alison! Shall I ever be able to move again without it? I did not want you to come home; I thought you would be in my way, and that made me cross. I was jealous of you, and I did not want the others to care for you. Roger was never fond of me as he was of you, and I wanted him to be fond of me. And oh! how horrid and small it all seems now!"

Poor Mabel, reading her past conduct under a new light. In the dark hours when one's strength is low, conscience sometimes flings a vivid torch into the recesses of one's being, bringing hidden faults to light.

"Dear Mabel, we will forget all that now," returned Alison, gently; "we will try and love each other more."

"Oh, it is easy for you to love people," returned Mabel, almost pettishly; "every one is so fond of you, and you are never cross and disagreeable as I am. Roger makes you his companion, and Rudel is less rough when you are in the room, and now papa will love you best."

"Hush, dear; what nonsense!"

"It is not nonsense," she returned, in a despairing tone. "I have forfeited his love. He will never forgive me now. He told me that he hated deceit; that he should never be able to think the same of me. He said I should never see Eva again if he could help it. Oh, he was so angry, so unlike himself! I suppose my obstinacy vexed him, for I would not say I was sorry. He took hold of my arm and almost shook me to make me speak, but I think I was like that man who had a dumb spirit."

(To be continued.)

The Natural Inference.

"Ma, didn't the heathens have a god for everything?"

"Yes, my child."

"Well, who was the god that ruled over kitchens?"

"I don't remember, but I think it was the great god Pan."—San Francisco Bulletin.

The Next Question.

"The impudent thing wanted me to marry him."

"When is the wedding going to be?"—Nashville American.

Bright Thought.

Judge—Why did you steal the books? Shifts Shank—I wanted to start a school.

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.

The Philippine general assembly has opened at Manila.

The American battleship fleet is now at anchor off Gibraltar.

Prominent American horsemen will make entries on English circuits.

The International Opium conference held its first session at Shanghai.

A 3-year-old boy in Philadelphia died of fright on seeing a dog that had bitten him seven weeks ago.

President Roosevelt has been offered \$300,000 to head a Wild West show in a 30 weeks' engagement.

A slight earthquake shock is reported from Montreal. Heavy shocks have been felt along the southern coast of Spain.

The Japanese consul at San Francisco belittles the recent attack of students on a Japanese student, and says it is a matter for the police court.

A London hotel employe has brought suit against his employers for \$45,000 in tips which he claims belonged to him but were collected and appropriated by the house. A similar suit was won by an employe recently.

While a brother of Mayor Busse, of Chicago, was instructing a servant in the use of a revolver, the weapon was discharged, the bullet passing through two windows and killing Mrs. Lucius Tuckerman, daughter of General A. C. Girard, U. S. A., retired.

South African colonies are about to form a federation.

An earthquake in Morocco caused great damage and killed about 100 persons.

The Eastern blizzard now extends over the entire Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

An unknown steamer foundered off the Virginia coast and all on board are believed to be lost.

A political quarrel in Cuba between President Gomez and Vice-President Zayas was won by the latter.

A Chicago woman procured a divorce because she preferred to give her whole time to driving and horseracing.

The Oregon presidential messenger has reached Washington several days late, and his fine has been remitted.

A pit full of bones of extinct animals has been found in California and will be thoroughly explored by scientists.

John Barrett, director of the bureau of American republics, says the Panama canal will be an immense success financially, as well as in other ways.

Thirty-one new cases of cholera were reported in St. Petersburg in 24 hours.

August Belmont has been operated upon for appendicitis. He will recover.

Benoit Constantine Coquelin, the greatest French actor of the age, is dead.

The deadlock in the Illinois legislature continues, though Hopkins is losing ground.

Mayor Rose, of Milwaukee, Wis., is determined to stick to his policy of open saloons.

It is said that President Roosevelt advises California to take no action on the Jap matter for two years.

The Spanish steamer Trinidad rammed and sunk an unknown Belgian steamer and eight lives were lost.

Ex-Senator W. A. Clark is reported to be at the head of a company who will manufacture the new explosive, Titanite.

The 200 clerks in the office of the treasurer of Cook county, Illinois, which is mostly Chicago, have struck for more pay for overtime.

Lake Michigan is so polluted with the sewage from the Calumet river that the new \$3,000,000 Southwest Land tunnel may prove useless.

Oregon's electoral messenger has not yet reached Washington, nor has the messenger from Montana. They will not be fined, as the returns have been sent by mail.

Wheat sells in Portland markets at \$1.09.

Attorney Jerome wants to prosecute the canal scandal case.

Chinese laundries are accused of spreading leprosy in Chicago.

The Oklahoma grand jury has found three true bills in their land fraud inquiry.

JEROME WILL PROSECUTE.

Federal Attorney Will Help Get Evidence Against New York World.

New York, Feb. 2.—United States District Attorney Henry L. Stimson made public tonight a letter, in reply to one written by District Attorney Jerome on the subject of beginning an action for criminal libel in the state courts against the publishers of the New York World because of published charges regarding the Panama canal purchases.

Mr. Stimson tells Mr. Jerome to go ahead.

Mr. Jerome had asked if action in the state courts on behalf of Douglas Robinson, the president's brother-in-law, would be an unwise interference with the actions begun under Federal jurisdiction.

Mr. Stimson answers this question negatively, but does not state that the Federal inquiries, or prosecutions will cease if Mr. Jerome begins an action.

It is apparent that while the Federal authorities concede to Mr. Jerome the right to appear as the protector of Douglas Robinson's good name, they reserve to themselves the privilege of acting in defense of the reputation of "a gentleman who occupied the position of head of the War department" in any Federal jurisdiction where the case applies.

The reference to the "gentleman who occupied the position of head of the War department" probably refers to Elihu Root, who was the secretary of war under whom the negotiations were completed.

NOT PREPARED YET.

Governor-General Smith Gives Further Advice to Filipinos.

Manila, Feb. 2.—The Philippine assembly opened today with simple ceremonies, President Osmena presiding. The first business to come before the body was the annual message to the assembly of Governor-General James F. Smith, which read, in part, as follows:

"My last word to the Filipinos is that until the great majority and not a small minority of the citizens are prepared to make intelligent use of the franchise; until democratic usages and customs have permeated throughout the population, and become a part of the daily life of the people; until the power of unscrupulous agitators and demagogues is broken; until education has created a just public sympathy that specious arguments and false doctrines cannot destroy; until a citizen has not only the power to judge but also the courage to act for himself, the best future of the islands lies with the land which has given the Filipinos freedom of speech; liberty of the press; freedom of worship; the right of the accused to meet witnesses against him face to face; the exercise of the franchise; free schools; autonomy in municipal and provisional affairs; the right to participate in making laws through the assembly, and many other rights, liberties and privileges not enjoyed by peoples which have had independence and national existence for hundreds of years."

Governor Smith deplored the growing gulf between the Americans and the Filipinos in the Philippines, and strongly urged that they draw closer together and act in unity for the best interests of both. His message sharply criticizes the municipal government of Manila and the municipal police force, the personnel of which, he said, was not equal to that of the house servants of the city.

The provincial government, Governor Smith pronounced to be entirely satisfactory.

The annual report on the revenues of the islands shows a decline of about a million pesos (about \$500,000) for 1908 under the figures of 1907.

Treat All Aliens Alike.

Sacramento, Feb. 2.—Governor Gillett made public tonight the text of a letter received today from President Roosevelt with regard to anti-Japanese legislation now pending in the California legislature.

President Roosevelt begins by quoting a letter from the secretary of state to Governor Gillett, in which Mr. Root said that he saw no objection to the passage of a law which treated all aliens alike in acquiring and transferring real property, but "To avoid conflict with the constitution of the United States, such statute should contain an expressed provision excepting from its operation any rights secured by treaty between the United States and foreign nations."

President Roosevelt then gives the text of a memorandum from Secretary of State Root, which, he says, has his cordial approval.

Wheat \$1 at Walla Walla.

Walla Walla, Wash., Feb. 2.—For the first time in more than 20 years wheat today sold in Walla Walla for \$1 a bushel. The sale was made to the Jones-Scott company, who said this evening the wheat was No. 1 milling bluestem, and the price was paid because it was worth the amount in the market. The lot consisted of 1,000 sacks.

CANAL OPEN IN 1915

Such Is Now the Prediction of Lieut. Colonel Goethals.

SITE OF GATUN DAM APPROVED

Taft and Party Visit Great Culebra Cut—Engineers Declare Locks Are Perfectly Feasible

Panama, Feb. 2.—"Naval vessels will sail through the lock canal by January 1, 1915," declared Lieutenant Colonel George W. Goethals, chairman of the Isthmian Canal commission and chief engineer, today.

The fact that the present plan for the lock and dam at Gatun is satisfactory to the visiting engineers has greatly encouraged people of the canal zone and fear of delay in the completion of the work has been relieved. The engineers do not conceal their satisfaction as to the feasibility of the Gatun dam.

Mr. Taft expressed the belief beforehand that the opinions of the engineers on the Gatun site would be favorable. Their findings, therefore, did not surprise him.

Today President-elect Taft and the engineers accompanying him went to Culebra on a special train and carefully examined the 14 miles of Culebra cut. All were much gratified at the great amount of work that has been done.

Before the party arrived all dynamite was removed from the workings, to prevent any possibility of an accident.

That Mr. Taft is acting as pacifier in the strong post-election factional feeling in the republic of Panama is indicated by the fact that both President Obaldia and Senor Arias, one-time opposition candidates for the presidency, have been invited to American Minister Squiers' dinner and reception to be held tomorrow in Mr. Taft's honor. Mr. Taft called this afternoon upon ex-President Amador, who is ill, wishing to make plain that he desires to treat all parties alike.

He will hear both sides of the commissary system controversy, but doubtless the commissary will continue, although the so-called luxuries will be eliminated. Mr. Taft has expressed full confidence in the judgment of Secretary Root in this matter.

DEFICIT GROWS IN JANUARY.

Has Increased \$15,543,842, But Customs Revenue Is Larger.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The monthly comparative statement of the government receipts for January, 1909, shows the total to have been \$47,480,428 and the expenditures \$63,024,260, which leaves the deficit for the month \$15,543,842, and for the seven months of the present fiscal year \$79,814,443.

The receipts from customs during January, 1909, amounted to \$23,818,870, which is a gain as compared with January, 1908, of \$547,264. The internal revenue yielded \$18,672,984, as against \$19,744,888 for January, 1908. The total receipts were about \$2,000,000 less for the corresponding month last year. The expenditures, however, were \$4,207,000 greater than for January, 1908.

The civil and miscellaneous expenditures amounted to \$17,244,182, an increase of \$1,800,000; war, \$11,030,366, an increase of \$2,200,000; navy, \$9,313,386, an increase of \$280,000. The public works item shows a slight decrease.

The public debt statement shows an increase for the month, less cash in the treasury, of \$16,776,482.

PROVE CASTRO ASSASSIN.

Ex-Dictator to Be Sued for Instigating Plot to Kill Gomez

Caracas, via Port of Spain, Feb. 2.—In accordance with instructions from Senor Alcantara, minister of the interior, the attorney general will bring suit in the High Federal court against Cipriano Castro, ex-president of Venezuela, on the charge of having instigated the attempted assassination of President Gomez. Minister Alcantara's communication to the attorney general was accompanied by a large amount of documentary proof. The minister writes:

"The documents show that the black, black conspiracy which happily was frustrated by the presence of the Supreme Magistrate, was the result of the suggestions, advice and orders of General Castro."

Railroad Shops Reopen.

Winnipeg, Feb. 2.—The railways have given orders to start the Canadian Northern and Canadian Pacific shops tomorrow morning with increased staff preparatory to the biggest railroad year in Western Canada's history.