A STORY OF TEACUPS.

randa.
Although Mrs. Jennings is proud of r blue china she does not flaunt it fore the eyes of her less fortunate sarders, whether for fear of exciting air cuty or that assent minded Mr. an Duyne, the artist should tip over a tea and knock off the handle of his p. or that Mary in the kitchen ould creek a plate with too hot ater, I do not know. Certain it is at it is only on fittingly rare occames that the rare china is placed at a service.

reservice.

The first time I saw it was on Mrs. inriey's birthday. When the bell up for tea, and we all came rushing from the orchard, the recks down the lake and the inaumocks on the randa, every boarder stopped short digased with delight upon the white oth, and the dainty, aristocratic me and white china with its flaring ps. deep saucers and flat little stes. Mrs. Briarley looked pleased a girl, and Dolly, who is her seven-us-old daughter, seized Mr. Van the same was the word of wild must be both inauds and they proceed to execute some sort of wild intastic dance across the whole length the dining-room.

f the dining-room.

I really don't know what would have secone of Mr. Van Duyne if it hadn't eeen for Dolly. It is my honest opinion hat he would have starred to death. he are or, under any circumstances, heard the bell—he was always too deeply engrossed in "A Study of the Rocks," or "The Coming Twilight." Dolly had constituted him her special charge, and at the first sound of the tembell she started forth to hunt him to bell was a separal harorit with ange, and at the first similar of the attack of the attack of the conjudities of the and the only child about. I ded to wonder sometimes if she didn't to lonesome, but she seemed very all content with as grown-up folks, and at times would take her dolls and off by herself to her "playhouse," is called it, in a field somewhere adming the orchard. Mrs. Journing squently gave her cake and cookies r test parties to be held with her itself and the seemed was, I think, the only "real see" person who had over been him to do attend. He told me wises he me back that he meant to "make a chire of it." But, dear me if Mrs. as Dayne had play had present the playhouse her meant to paint, or, for that atter, finished all those he begun, here would have been antiledent to traish an art gallery.

urnish an art gallery.

But, pictures or no pictures, he and bally were the best of friunds, and the sight of Mrs. Briarley's birthday yied with each other in their brish admiration of the time china ten set.

Either there were no birthdays after hat or me one of so much importance

rs. Briarley, for ordinary china ed each meal. Then he briarley anddenly called home on business. Mrs. Briarley and Dolly went with

im.

It was rather lonesome after this, and everything moved along in a very salm, unevential sout of way until the lay of my birthany. I dun't know now in the world they found out that it was my birthany, uncess Mr. Van Duyne saw it in itelly's highling book. But, and found out afterwards. Mrs. Jenning and teen planning a surprise for mr. There was

afterwards, Mrs. Jesum of had been planning a surprise for me. There was a birthilay cake baked for me. And the bine chins was to appear in my bonor—until—but see here. I my ong to tell it to you just as it came to me.

I was sitting on the versada in the hammock, feeling pretty hungry, for it was just half an hour before teatime, when Mrs. Jennings came bustling out the front door, looking very hot and werried, and sank down in the chair at my side.

"Miss Wright, "she exclaimed, "what do you suppose has become of four of my bine china cupes"

"Four of your bine china enpal" I schood, staring at her. "Can't you find them?"

find thom?"
"No I can't." she answered, in a voice that somuled as if she was just ready

"Oh, well, never mind," I said soothingly, "the girl must have misplaced them."

pinced them. "De you think so?" she asked, bright-ening up a tittle, and then in a tone of denair. "But I've looked just about everywhere. I've been hunting for a straight hour."

straight hour "
"Let use o and help you." I said,
extrice eff from the is smooth.
And we ampether a school
through the skina stock every And we wongether a chest through the chain course overy porner of the paintry, and a short every spot in the house over those was a possibility or he stillity of finding four blue chain teaching. But our Maria were of so wright from her dearings mag the hell for tea with tears in her eyes, and the blue china was not brought forth in my houser, for the dear lady said the "wasn't going to risk losing the rect of it."

and said:

"Well, well, wife, I wouldn't give up a hoping, for thing a sometimes does happen in the most unexpected way."

And they do, as Mra Jennings will testify now. I didn't hear about it until the next summer. Mra Jennings said: "They meant to write me, but they never got at it."

I had hardly slighted at their door, and Mra Jennings still was holding my hand in cordial welcome, when she exclasioned, triumphautly:

"Well, I found them."

"The china teacups? You did—

Mrs. Jennings and I stared at each other for a moment, and then burst out laughing. At last Mrs. Jennings wiped her eyes and endeavored to stifle her peaks of merriment.

"It was that Mr. Van Duyne," she said. "You remember how wild he was over that china set the night of Mrs. Briarley's birthday?"

"Yes," I answered, "and he told me once he meant to make a picture of Dolly's playhouse, but I never thought that he would."

"Just let me tell you all about the Mrs. Jennings and I stared at each

that he would."
"Just let me tell you all about it,"
continued Mrs. Jennings. "After you
went away it went along, I guess, two
months—anyhow it was getting quits

with it.

"I hurried up and got the shears, and Josiah out with his jackknife and we got it open and the papers off from around it, and it was a picture. And we set it upon the dining-room table and Josiah held the lump up over my shoulder and we just lpoked at it. There was Mr. Van Doyne's card studk in one side of the frame, but I didn't see that at all at first I was

"And Josiah kept on looking with a kind of puzzled look on his face as if he was a-studying out something. Then all of a sudden it all cleared up and be exclaimed:

he was actudying out something. Then all of a sudden it all cleared up and be exciaimed:

"Why, yes, mother, it's that senth lot adjoining the orchard. You know we always called it the woodlot until a few years ago when I tried to clear it off. I used to see Dolly going off down in that direction sometimes.

"And then it all flashed over me and I said: Yas, that's probably where she had her playhouse. She was always teasing me to make her little ples and for goodries to take down there. And Mr. Van Buyne he probably took the teacups down there to paint this picture and then went and forgot all about them.

"You, it would certainly be just like him, Josiah and "Well," Josiah and "By and by I said: Josiah, do you suppose you could find that place in the dask?

"He looked at me kind of surprised, and half grimed."

The tooked at me kind of surprised, and half grimsed.

"Well, I don't care' I said. It would be such a weight off my mind to find those teachps."

"Bessat laughed a good deal, but he get out the around to the around to the around do the second look of the around ion. Josiah didn't have a hit of trouble to finding the ensurance.

"And there, sure enough, were the tescupe, couled with dirt and parily filled with dead leaves, but just as good as they were the last time law; them after I got them home and washed them up and put them on his timelina closet with the rest.

The tooked at me kind of surprised, Sails from Yaquida to should every 8 days.

Passenger commit just of Williamette Valley of Fare from Alban San Francisco:

(Abin, Cabin, Found try for sailing days and washed them up and put them up his timelina closet with the rest.

And there, sure anough, were the tescupe, couled try filled with dead leaves, but just as good as they were the last time I say the sail of the s



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Jons H. Mana, Administrator

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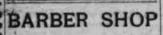
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