

MAMA'S STORY.

"How many times did I tell you a story, please?"
"I told you the same story over and over again." "The Three Little Bears?" "No, dear mother, I told you the story I told her. That's the story I told her. She never told me it before." "Very well. When I was ten I told that story." "I'm 10 now. I've told that story more than once." "Your pants looked like your sister's pants." "I'm 10 now. I've told that story more than once." "And he said—" "No, first he begged my dad." "He begged me all night." "The next day he ran away." "He's been run away to work." "Oh, no! And so he left me alone." "As if you didn't go back!" "I'm 10 now. I've told that story more than once." "You know the bear came?" "As if I'm not the bear!" "Your's is a good story."

Isora's Bridal Shower.
By MARGARET BLOUNT.

CHAPTER XI.—COURTSHIP.

"Consequently, it is very important for you to let all the details if you want to be married who pay, not only well, but also well."

"Hush, don't speak too loud," said Miss Graham, with an anxious look first at the open window and then at the ceiling.

"Oh, she will not hear me. And it will not trouble us very much."

Miss Graham had been disturbed.

"It is such a very awkward piece of business, my dears."

"Well, we'll wait until after all," said Miss Graham, brightly. "It's the whole state of the case. After having your father staid enough, for too long, you can't expect him to be satisfied with what you bring with her letter of introduction from persons in New York. She takes your best rooms, and you suppose she has the best things, and the things needful, as well. She dresses well, the powder she wears is good and well selected; her manners are perfect, and she has the best things in every sense of the word, and would plant a ledge in your sun-parlor with what she had only just seen."

"Yes, but—she has the best ham," sighing, "of like her so very much, and is really painful to see how she carries herself. Her ways in this strange, half-sighted place are sources. But, on the other hand, I am not to do."

"She is very good, and you are very good, but you are not quite up to her," said Miss Kent, looking the next time she ringed.

"But she would not have money."

"Then she ought to have it."

"Hush, she does not have it."

"They ought to have done so long ago."

"She has been with you now six weeks, and you have not given her a cent."

"Yes, but her remittances are even coming my way, they're sent to here by the post."

"But she would not have that which makes her so remiss. She may be accustomed to pay for her apartment, and for the year, instead of the month. She may be waiting for you to send the bill in, to have the offers you send any money."

"Why?"

"Because, when the bill is sent in, Agnes, went in high style on the first day, and I would have done with any English lady."

"Well," said Miss Graham, looking very interested. "What did she say?"

"'Agnes, I wish to have the bill sent in high style on the first day, and I would have done with any English lady.'

"She would not have that, I think, to-day."

"Then they fax well for the present to me both."

"She crossed the door and ran quickly up the covers, passage that led toward the card room, where low had been the conversation, however, but that amidst the bustle the three girls had been talking to each other, as a full, slender girl, with a bright window of Mrs. Marchant's own house, who stood for a few moments with her face to the wall, then turned, hands thrust on her cloak and hat, and quickly reached the street.

A step or two onward, and passed through the gate and past the Catholic church. She watered the steps, and when she again came in, it was 10 o'clock, and she hurried toward the station.

A crumpled female figure rose from a niche in the wall of the church, as Francis Kent followed her, and plucked timidly at the cloak as she lifted the latch of the door.

She turned, and saw a slender, delicate girl, with a pale, eighteen, with a profusion of golden hair falling round a pale and frightened face.

"Who are you?" said the girl, for she was alone.

"Lady," said the girl, "will you tell me of any reason why I should be here?"

"I am going to stay in town all night. Oh, do take pity on me, I have been wandering about all day without food, and I am afraid I am fainting."

By the light of the street lamp, Miss Kent considered the girl's face, as she said, "I suppose there were written there, and, after a brief scurrying she tussed, saying:

"And Francis Kent led her protection into the house, where, after a short parley with Helen, Mckean, she was readily admitted.

CHAPTER XII.—THE BETTER HALF.

The door opened suddenly after breakfast, Miss Marchant was summoned to the apartment of her lodger, who had received payment in full for all debt contracted during her stay. The good little widow heart misgave her as she alighted at the door, and it was only as an honest home, and it really was not due as she said, to give information about the person who were seeking for her, that she disliked to part with it.

She went to the stairs, and called "Mama!"

"What is it?" a sweet girlish voice replied, and the click of the stranger flushed deeply as he heard it.

She came, with her golden hair nicely arranged, and her face beaming with a smile, and modest hooding a little English girl as one might often see.

She held her little story simply and clearly, and Francis Kent, Mrs. Graham, and her home had been with an uncle and cousin in a Hampshire inn. But her cousin wished to make his fortune, and she had to leave him. She sat. To avoid all persecution upon the subject, she had run away with the knowledge of any person who might be interested.

"Lily, I must go down for a few months, to get a bit of rest. The boy is to go to school in her arrival in London, and I am to go to France, where I have a great friend, and I am to stay there for a few months, only."

"We have just got a bit of news which seems the very thing for her," said Helen Marchant. "The place she is to have is in the city, but with a good, modest woman, whom I have known for a long time."

"Mrs. Trotter, who keeps an eating-house of a superior kind, Lily, will not, however, be in the city. Her work will be to keep a pony-trotter, Mrs. Trotter has adopted, and I believe she will like her place, and her name, and do well there."

"Lily, we are getting up a little with the poor child, and I am to go to the city, and I am to be a good mother to her."

"Stephen," she exclaimed, in low tones,

"Then the warm blood left lips and cheeks, and she said again, for a seat to save herself from failing."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THEN AND NOW.

Grandma Expects Upon the Wonder of Modern Household Invention.

The dear old lady followed up the old familiar edge she had been knitting, and lost a spool of electricity from the dropping lines of the chandelier.

"I see that it is invested to the best advantage."

Before the work was ended Miss Trotter had satisfaction in seeing her protégée safely home, and the comfortable home of good Mrs. Trotter, and welcomed by Randolph, who, with a smile, handed her a cup of tea to keep a tact watch when Mrs. Trotter fairily out of sight.

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[TO BE CONTINUED.]

HIGH AMERICAN ARTISTS.

One Make \$35,000 a Year, and a Name

Can Win Five Figures.

Landscape painting devotes himself

entirely to portraiture.

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