

SHORT STORY SECTION

"SUNSHINE AFTER SHOWERS" (Creelman Rowland.)

Chapter I.

"Oh! You came home very early this afternoon. It has been only five minutes since you were dismissed from school." This was said by Grace, Helen's maid.

"I could hardly wait until I was able to see you. Just think! I made the highest grade of the entire sophomore class on English," cried the radiant child. "I am sure that if grandfather were here he would be proud of me. I wonder if he is never coming."

"O, yes indeed, he will come sometime and I am sure that when he does he will be very proud of you," replied Grace, although she did not know where Helen's grandfather was or whether they would ever see him or not.

"I am going to work harder than I ever have before and see if I shall not be able to keep on getting the highest grades on English. Please tell me all about mother, father, grandfather, and myself," pleaded Helen after several minutes of thought.

As Helen combed her hair Grace, seated on the bed, repeated to her for the first time the story that was known by so few people.

"There was a very wealthy old man who had a very beautiful daughter," began Grace. "He had said that his daughter should not marry anyone who could not rank as high as she in her social sphere. The one man whom he wanted her to marry was very rich and of an old aristocratic family, but his daughter did not love this man. She loved one whom she had met while traveling in another section of the country. Her father did not know this but even if he had known it, this would not have helped her any because when he decided that a certain thing should be done he never changed his decision until his wishes had been carried out. Therefore, when she married the man whom she loved her father became so angry that he ran her away from her home before he had realized what he was doing.

"Although she had married a very

poor man she was happy and soon the happiness of both was increased when her husband at the death of a great uncle received a large fortune. They were not allowed to enjoy this very long, however, for they died within a few days of each other, about a month after you were born. You were then brought here under the guardianship of your aunt, and I have been your nurse since then."

"I believe that I would love grandfather in spite of the fact that he ran mother away from home. I am sure that he is sorry now; and I bet he doesn't even know where I am," murmured Helen.

"We have tried very hard to locate him but he seems to have left his old home and no one knows where he is," said Grace.

"I am sure that he would like to see me and I wish that he would soon come," insisted Helen. "Now I know where I got my temper. It was from him. I have tried so hard to be gentle in my ways as other girls are but I say things and do not even know how I say them. My English teacher told me today that I talk in a very insulting manner and she also told me that she once said something to me and I went out into the hall and stamped my foot! I do not remember it, but I am sure that it is true.

"I do not believe that grandfather would have run mother away from home if he had not been so angry. I know that he would treat me better than my aunt does," was the conclusion that Helen made.

"Why, it is 4 o'clock and I have neither studied nor practiced! Please leave me alone for a while, Grace, for I have so much work to do," pleaded Helen.

"Why, certainly I will, dear," responded the gentle nurse as she left the room.

The door had scarcely closed before Helen was poring over her English book. "I simply must keep on leading the class. I must!" she murmured as she scanned page after page. She was so busy when the supper bell rang that she did not hear it.

Helen's aunt had been very cross

all day, and therefore, when Helen did not immediately appear for supper she came after her.

"Why did you not come when the bell rang for supper?" asked her cross aunt as she entered Helen's room.

"Is it supper-time? Why, auntie, I was so busy that I did not hear the bell," explained Helen.

"Do you mean to sit there and lie to me in such a manner as that? Do not say a word. I know that you heard it. Very well, you need not come down for supper at all but you may do without and I shall give orders to the servants not to bring you any," finished the lady of the house as she left the room.

"I am sure that grandfather would not treat me in this manner," said the little prisoner. "I only wish that he would come."

Chapter II.

"Good evening, Mr. Woolard. We had almost decided that you had changed your plans and would not stop in this place," were the remarks that the clerk addressed to an old gentleman as he entered the hotel of a winter resort.

"The reason for my late arrival is that my chauffeur had trouble with the car and we could not travel as fast as I had intended. I have decided to remain here for several months if nothing happens to change my plans," explained Mr. Woolard as he signed the register. "Has my secretary arrived? Oh, that is he coming down the stairs now.

"Good evening, Mr. Parker. I would like to see you in my living-room this evening at about 7:30. I want to know the results of your search," continued Mr. Woolard.

"All right. I shall come prepared to give in minute detail a report of what has passed since I last saw you," responded the secretary as he left Mr. Woolard.

At the appointed time a low knock was heard on the door of Mr. Woolard's living room. As this old gentleman's valet opened the door Mr. Parker entered with quite a few letters.

"Of course the first thing that you want to know is whether we have