

For Little Folks

The Dalzells of Daisydown
By CHARLES SCHEUER

(Continued)

How the fresh young voice thrilled the willful lad through and through! "Could any lark sing clearer?" asked Houghton of himself. He was in real wonder now; he sat up behind the screen.

The song ceased; there was a grumbling comment of fault-finding from the exacting teacher, and a turning of music leaves. "Try this," said the professor, "it is simple and old, but it carries the expression you want."

Old, indeed; it was a lullaby that famous lips have sung; but to Houghton it only brought the memory of his mother's voice singing by his bedside the self-same melody for the last time. The hot tears gushed from his eyes, big boy as he was; and the last remnant of his wearisome pride faded out of his heart. An hour later, when Molly sat alone by the piano, Houghton came to her with his hands full of music.

"It was my mother's," he said simply; "she died when I was ten years old. Will you sing some of these?"

The hazel eyes looked for a moment into the black ones with the earnestness of real sympathy, and then without a word she complied.

When Ranald and Phil came back from Daisydown, the contralto and a clear boyish tenor were blending beautifully from the parlor. Houghton's better self had come back.

PART III.

Peace and harmony now reigned at Dalzell Hall. The four young people were inseparable, and for Houghton geologizing had lost its charm. Mr. Tripton Dalzell saw with satisfaction that his boys

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were becoming more refined, more thoughtful. There were long horse-back scampers over the downs, sailing, fishing and rowing without end, picnics on Bear Island, daily plunges in the surf, and evening "sings" in the long, cool parlor, when Mr. Tripton Dalzell would listen, in a retired nook with his hand over his eyes, to the fresh young voices.

Neither was the two weeks' yachting trip left out for the three lads. They all went, though Ranald heroically offered to stay at home with Molly, a sacrifice which she with equal heroism refused.

"I shall feel very lonesome while you're gone," she said, "but never mind; I shall ride and practice, and the time will soon pass. I wouldn't have you miss the trip for anything."

So Miss Peabody was brought up from Daisydown to sleep with Mrs. Merriam, and Peter removed from his stable chamber to a room near the kitchen, because of the lonesomeness of the big house; for Mr. Tripton Dalzell was to accompany his boys. And off they went.

Breakfast is late at Dalzell Hall on the morning of their return,

about two weeks later. It is full half-past nine when they rise from table—all but Mr. Tripton Dalzell, who, after a couple of hours' sleep in a chair, has taken an early train for town and business.

"Now, what shall we do?" says Molly.

"Go fox-hunting," answers Ranald. "Peter was telling me just now of a fox that Teddy Capen saw on the hills beyond the ledges. Let's take Prince and Poppy and hunt him up."

"We're not in England, my fine fellow, where the lords and ladies ride straight over everybody's land," objects Phil, while Houghton laughs. "But maybe we'll have some fun out of it. It's a nice cool day, and I'm in for the hunt if the rest are."

(To be Continued.)

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