### From the Argosy. WILDING'S SUMMONS.

[CONCLUDED.]

Janey graw to be a bright, intelligent girl, her manners sweetly simple, her disposition loving-I can't help repeating this, Erriugton ; servants and a'l, were devoted to her; and Gregory would, I believe, have given his life for her. Nevertheless, simple though in ordinary she was, the child had strange ways about her, which I failed to understand. She would talk to herself in a singular manner, and tell us of queer things that she had dreamed. They were such dreams as, I verily believe, never disturbed the rest of any child before. Her mother laughed at them, yet was doubtful.

What can possibly be the meaning of it, James ?' she once said to me.

'Oh?' I answered gaily, laughing, too, the child must have come direct from the fairies.'

'One day, it was the last day of the old year-Are you going to follow me, my friend?

'Indeed I am.

'It was the last day of the old year, just as this day is the last of the year now passing from us, continued Wilding. Janey had been born on New Year's Day, and some children were to come the next evening to keep her birthday; she would be 7 years old. After tea she began talking of the morrow's party, skipping gayly about, with happy chatter. Presently she seemed to tire, sat down on a footstool and became silent. Suddenly she turned round and looked at me. Her mother had left her seat to search in a cabinet at the end of the room, and was standing with her back to us.'

Papa, why did you say we should be twelve to-morrow evening?"

Why, so we shall be, Janey. 'No,' said she, shaking her little head,

it's only eleven: I've been counting." There are to be nine little guests, you know, my dear : yourself will make ten,

and your mamma and I twelve,' But mamma will not be here.'

You quaint hitle reasoner! Where else wili mamma Le?"

"I spoke in a jesting tone; Janey was looking at me almost doubtingly, as if she did not understand my last question; her blue eyes, a world of serious depth in them, were fixed upon mine.

"Not mamma," she repeated; she won't be here. So it will be eleven; you count

'I laughed, and let her have her way, Mary come back with what she had been getting from the cabinet -it was a picture aibam, I remember -- and I don't think she had heard Janey's logic.

Robert Errington! before midlay the next day she was dead."

"Who was ?' I cried, startled. The

'No. no.: Mary, my dear wife. She had an hour's illness in the morning and then died,' he added, in a tremulous whis

per. "Good heavens! What was it?"

'That creaker, the old doctor, had the cruelty to say we ought to have been looking out for it; that he had warned me.' rejoined Wilding, in a voice so low I could hardly eatch it. "It seemed like cruelty to me. I suppose he hid not mean it so She took with her the best part of my life; all that was worth having in it, except Janey."

For a few minutes there was a silence, dense as that amid the pine trees when the wind ts still. Then Wilding went on a

"Telling all this in words, though it's rarely absent from my thoughts, is so painful to me that I must end it. Listen yet

"Another birthday of Janey's came round; or, rather, was coming, when she would be 10 years old; three years had claps of since that dreadful time. There's not much to record of their passing: the world was half a blank to me, leaving little remembrance behind it. The list day of the old year, in the morning, Janey was with me in the study at her lessons. It be 38 if I lived till next February.' was a fair, summy day, and when the last lessen-back was closed. I began talking ed too young to die. brightly of the lit le treat I had planned for the marrow-for I aid not inflict my gloom upon the child.

We were to take a short journey of pleasure and I painted to her in glowing colors the features of the trip, saying in this place we should see some magnificent scenery, and in that place we should dinea sumptions dinner with jam tarts and sweetmeats. Another little girl was to go with as. Janey, sitting close to me, had bent from her chair to lay her head upon my arm while she listened, her pretty, golden earls falling over it.

"And we three, I would up with, Lotty and Juney and I will be happier than all his past life, Gregory. And -yes-he

But, papa,' she suddenly said. lifting Did he hear a voice that's dead? her bend to face me, I shall not be He thought so. His child's voice; she

A cold shiver passed through me. Just Ay I feared it, said the man, in a tone

years before. "What do you mean, my child?"

that New Year's journey; it will be only death, Mr: Errington, and then forefold Shoes, in this county, Call and examine them. you and Letty,"

thoney, why do you say this? Who told you you would not ?

by the bed, and then she said it.'

The child repeated this as calmly as she the slightest appearance of discomfort. A wild terror filled my heart; I could not stroked her golden hair.

'Janey-Janey! Dan't you know what you are saying? If you go to be with your mother you will leave me all alone?

'Janey burst into sobs. But yet she to bring to hers. Alas, alas!"

'And the result?' I breathed, hardly daring to put the question.

. Need you ask it?' returned Wilding. with a bitter smile. That same morning, close upon the conversation in the study, Janey was seized with a dangerous disorder which was going about Boston, and die I the next day-her birthday."

'I'm going to mamma in the strange land,' she strove to say to me in dying. I know she will be there to meet me. Don't cry, papa. Yes, yes, mamma, I'm striving to rise from the pillow and stretching out her hands apparently to somebody in the distance, and then fell back lifeless upon the pillow.

Wilding bent his face on his hands, tears trickling through his fingers. Thus there was a long silence.

'And that's my past story, Errington,' he said, looking up.

'How long is it since !

Two years ago Janey left me. I've not much to tell of them. The wealthy bank broke and swallowed up all my money and Mary's in its ruins. But that I had inherited a slendor income from my Uncle James, in England, I should have had nothing left-and I don't know that am coming. I should have eared. While knocking about, aimless, with Gregory, who would cling to me, I fell in with this surreyor's clearing company, and we joined it. That's all, Errington. It brings us down to this day.

'To this day, yes, but have you not something to tell of that?"

James Wilding nodded. 'This afternoon, when I was at work at the lower clearing, busy enough, heard a soft voice close to me.

'Papa,' it said, 'papa.'

It was the voice of my child, if I ever heard it. I heard it distinctly as you hear mine now. Turning quickly round, it be true? I saw no one was near me but Gregory, and I waited in a sort of startled surprise. Ition in it is concerned. And I think I can

you,' said the voice again, and I remember witness. no more.

Why I should have fainted, I know not; certainly not from terror-I suppose it all a part and portion of that which canwoke up, Gregory was supporting my that Gregory.

·Did you stumble and hurt yourself, sir ?' he asked, and I let him think it.

That was my summons, Errington, and to-morrow will be New Year's day.'

It sounded mysterious and solemn.

Let us hope that you may be in some way mistaken, Wilding,' I said, with lame

'How can I be -- remembering the past? he rejoined. I am not a superstitious man -never was that; yet I believe I shall not see the setting of to-morrow's sun. Possibly I may see it in a more glorious form in the other land. But that my brief life : of sadness and sorrow is at its close, I am as sure of as can be. '

A brief life indeed, if this be its ending. How old are you?"

'Thirty-seven,' he answered. 'I should ent style of dress and has the endersement of

I was some years under 30, but it seems Wilding rose.

"I think I shall turn into my blankets," he said: 'I'm tired somehow; done over.' "Why have you not lighted your pipe?" He shook his head.

'I shall never light that again. Erring-He disappeared within the hut. I be-

Gregory came up to me and spoke. What is it that is worrying him. Mr. Errington? What was it that he heard to-day by the lower clearing? Has he before

been telling you?" He has been telling me a good deal of

spoke of to-morrow.

said he was coming to the m.

the words she had said of her mother three of despair. To see him faint like that, a thing he never did before, and to hear him question me as to what I had heard, told "Why, paper I shall not be with you on it to me. The child ferctold her mother's her own.

You know that much?

Oh, yes, the was an angel, that little

'Mamma,' she promptly answered; mam- one, if ever there was an angel upon earth, ma came to my room in the night, and and I've often fancied that the angels must said I was going to be will her to-morrow. have whispered the secret to her. And She woke me up, I think, for I opened my now is his turn! God bless him! God eyes all in a minute, and she was standing reward him for the good man and master he has been!

When the rest of us turned in, the would repeat a story of a book, without lurid sky with the rapid rising of the wind seemed to give near warning of the e-ming storm, but we heaped hig . the lags on the control it, and I caught her to me and fires outside, and drew the blankers close about us beneath the saug roof of the sleep ing-huts, defying the blast and rain. And so we got to sleep, though the storm was soon upon the forest in all its fury.

About an hour after midnight a terrific aid not seem to realize the situation. I crash disturbed us; in an instant every swallowed my own emotion; I soothed her man was on his feet, rushing out to see the with loving words - which brought to my cause. A mighty pine tree had been harled soul none of the comfort they were meant by the gale to the earth. It fell athwart the largest of the fires ; and as we went forward, a torrent of sparks swirled appeard and swept away out into the forest. Some of us uttered an exclamation of thankfulness that the tree had failed to touch the sleepings-huts; but Gregory, who was the first to advance, gave a cry of horror.

There lay Wilding by the fire, with the huge trunk across his breast. Unable to sleep, he had risen and stolen out to sit by the large fire

Thus fate had overtaken him.

Gregory knelt down, disstrasing tears coming,' she added a minute afterward, falling from his face. His master, who had not lost consciousness, looked up at him with a faint, happy smile.

It is all as it should be, Gregory, he panted; I am going to them in the better

I spoke to him, but he did not seem to hear me. He was gazing upward at the orange sky, which almost seemed aflame: his eyes had a far-away look, as if seeing beyond it. Thus he lay for some minutes. his hands joined in the attitude of one who prays, his libs silently moving. Then a change passed over his face.

Yes, yes; I see them, he whispered in a sort of joyous eagerness; a goodly company -all angels of brightness. My dear ones, I

Very gradually his eyes closed. There was a long-drawn sigh, and all was over.

And so, through the vast and unknown gate of death he passed into that of Para- Household matters. disc. The storm spent its fury, and the dawn came, gray and gloomy, with a dreary mist and driving rain, which shrouded forest and river and mountain from our view, blotting from our vision the fair face of nature. But James Wilding had awakened amid the splenders of eternal morning, there to enand thinking of nothing but my duties, I | ter into the new year in sweet communion with those he loved; the new year of im-

Kate drew a deep breath. Oh, Bertie, what a solemn story! Can

Undeniably true, Kate, as far as my por-

'Papa, you are coming to us; we want answer for the part of it which I did not Well, it is very strange; very solemn!

Solemn enough, to have kept you a silent listener, I put in. Now, Tom, don't begin to lecture me.

not be understood in this world. When I Bertie, what became of Gregory? I like

What became of him immediately afterward. I don't know, for I left the camp Three or four years later, when I was at the Diggins in California, I came across Gregroy honest and kindly as ever. He was keeping a store, Kate, and growing rich.



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