CHAPTER XXV.

OW did ye like the prayer meetin'?" asked Uncle Terry the next morning as Albert stood watching him getting ready to start on his daily rounds. "Did the Widder Leach make ye feel ye was a hopeless sinner?"

"It was an interesting experience," replied Albert, "and one I shall not

"Oh, it don't do 'em no harm to git together an' pray an' sing, an' most likely it divarts their minds from other troubles; but, in my way o' thinkin', prayin' is a good deal like a feller tryin' to lift himself by his boot straps. It encourages him some, but he don't git much further." Then he added, 'You haven't thought o' no way to git

me out o' my scrape, hev ye?"
"I have thought a good deal about it," replied Albert, "and the best way, it seems to me, is for you to go Frye and tell him you can't afford to carry the case any further and offer to pay whatever fee he sees fit to ask. You can tell him you will give up the case entirely, and ask him to return the proofs you want. I may decide to have a detective within hearing, so that if he refuses you these things we can use the detective as a witness in a replevin sult. Most likely he will demand quite a sum, but it is best to pay it if we can get the proofs. I will advance money enough to cover what he is likely to ask. What I want you to do is to wait until he sends for more

Uncle Terry looked at Albert a moment and suddenly, grasping his hand, exclaimed, "I can't thank ye 'nough for yer offer to help me, but I kin say how sorry I am I distrusted ye at fust, an' as long as I've a roof to cover my head ye're sure to find a welcome under it an' the latchstring allus out."

"I thank you for your kindly words, Mr. Terry," responded Albert, "and I am likely to avail myself of your invitation again before the summer is over. I expect my friends back today and must join them, but I assure you I would much prefer to stay here for the two weeks I have planned for my

"Ye won't go till I see ye again, will ye?" asked Uncle Terry anxiously.

"No. If the Gypsy shows up today we will stay in the harbor tonight, and I should like to have you and Miss Telly visit her." Then as the old man pushed off and pulled out of the cove with long, slow strokes, Albert watched him with a new interest. "Poor old fellow!" he thought. "He is honest as the day is long and has a heart of gold eneath his blunt speech. How hard he has to work for what he gets, and what a vile thing in Frye to rob him When the old man was out of sight Albert strolled over to the village. On the outer side of the harbor and opposite where the houses were he came to some long rows of slat benches, and busy at work spreading split fish upon them was the old lady who had thanked the Lord so fervently at the prayer meeting. For an hour he strolled around the

harbor watching the men at work on boats or fishing gear and sniffing the salt sea odor of the ocean breeze, and then returned to the point and began sketching the lighthouse. He was absorbed in that when he heard a sharp whistle, and, looking up, there was the Gypsy just entering the harbor. He ran to the cove where he had left his boat, and by the time alongside. To his surprise no one was aboard but Frank. "Where are the young man grasped his boat. Frank laughed. "Well, just about now they are playing tennis and calling 'lifteen love' and 'thirty love' with a lot of girls down at Bar Harbor. The fact is, Bert," he continued as Albert stepped aboard, "our gander cruise has come to an end. They ran into some girls they knew, and after that all the Gypsy was good for was a place to eat and sleep in. I've run her up here and shall let you keep her with you until you get ready to go home. I'm going to cut sticks for the mountains, and if I can get one of the girls to go with me I may visit Sandgate.'

Albert laughed heartily. "Want to hear some one sing 'Ben Bolt' again?"

he queried.
"Well, maybe," replied Frank. "The fact of the matter is, the whole trip has gone wrong from the start. You know what I wanted, but as it couldn't heard of place saying sweet things to be, I did the next best thing and made up this party, and now the cruise has ended in a fizzle. By the way, where is the girl with the wonderful eyes you

"Just now I imagine she's helping her mother in the house," answered Albert quietly; and then he added, "Well, what is the programme, and where are you going with the Gypsy?" "I want to be landed at the nearest port where I can reach a railroad, and

then you can do as you please with her. My skipper will do your bidding." "What about the rest of the boys?"

"Well, you can run to Bar Harbor and dance with the girls until the rest want to come back, or you can do as you please. The Gypsy is yours as long as you want her after I'm ashore. I think I'll run up to Bath and take the night train for the mountains if there is one. If not, we will lie at Bath overnight."

"I must go ashore and leave word I am coming back," said Albert, "The fact is I've found a client in this Mr. Terry, and it's an important matter.'

"So is the blue eyed girl, I imagine," observed Frank, with a droll smile. When the irrepressible owner of the Gypsy had deserted her Albert returned to the Cape and remained there for a week. How many little trips he induced his new found friends to take on her during that time, how much gossip it created in the village and how many happy hours he and Telly passed together! The last day but one of his stay he invited everybody at the Cape old or young, to go out on a short

When the morning of his departure came, Uncle Terry said, "I hope we'll see ye soon, Mr. Page, and ye're sure of a welcome here, so don't forget us," and then he pulled away on his daily round to his traps

Telly accompanied Albert to the cove where his boat was and bade him goodby. When the yacht rounded the point she was there waving an adieu and remained there until lost from sight.

CHAPTER XXVI.

HE one point of pride in Nicholas Frye's nature was his absolute belief in his own shrewdness. "They can't get

self when he had won an unusually knotty case. He knew he was both hated and feared by his fellow members of the bar. Being hated he didn't mind, and being feared flattered his vanity to an intense degree. When Uncle Terry put himself in his power and, like a good natured old sheep, stood to be sheared, Frye only laughed at his client's stupidity and set out to continue the robbery as long as possi-ble. Messrs. Thygeson & Co. of Stockholm, who had first employed him to hunt up an heir to the estate of old Eric Peterson, whose son Nells and his young wife had been lost on the coast for over a month and her daily life away his best client the old scoundrel suffered the worst blow to his vanity was morally sure of it. But it made he ever received. "Curse the fellow!" he would say to himself. "I'll pay him aristocratic Mrs. Nason had sent her and have revenge if I live long enough.

evil doers in this world, ready to strike a rich family to pay court to her with an invisible hand all who are lost was not characteristic of Alice Page.

Then along came a war cloud in Europe. Stocks began to drop and provisions to advance. September wheat face. Once more the two bellicose for never have told her his mother eign powers growled and showed their frowned at him when he danced twice teeth. Wheat rose another cent, and with a poor girl.
Frye doubled his holdings. Then the "I am a poor i

was still falling. At every drop of a cent he was called upon for \$2,000. Day by day it vibrated, now going up a baughty mother shall read him a lecture for dancing twice with me."

Ever since the day Mrs. Mears had is the most original little old woman ten gains vanish to the tune of many thousand dollars per diem. He neglected his business, went without his never dared to speak of it, and Aunt have a headache," and, laughing a little, "if you are wise you will improve your opportunities and persuade your

To collect the little due him and raise proofs he held, at the same time stating that on receipt of his fee of a thouwarded. Then he wrote to Uncle Terry the yacht was anchored had pulled and demanded \$300 more. September wheat had now fallen to 78.

CHAPTER XXVII.

ANCH NASON, Frank's younger sister, was his good friend and sympathizer and in all the family discussions had usually token his part. His elder sister, Edith, was, like her mother, rather arrogant and supercilious, and considered her brother as lacking in famlly pride and liable to disgrace them alize. The second day Bert got left on to Blanch he always turned when he needed sympathy and help, and to her had found a pretty girl and acted as if he had become smitten with her. Then in response to all this he said but litthe Gypsy. His coming to the mounains surprised her not a little.

"Why, what has brought you here, Frank?" she asked. "I thought you were having high jinks down in Maine n the yacht with your cronies."

"Oh, that is played out," he answered. "The boys are at Bar Harbor, havng a good time. Bert is at a little una pretty girl he found there, and I got ne, so I came up here to see you and get you to help me."

"I thought so," answered Blanch, laughing. "You never did come to me unless you wanted help. Weii, who ts the girl now, and what do you

Frank looked surprised. "How do you know it is a girl?" he

isked. "It usually is with you," she answered, eying him curiously. "So out with What's her name?"

"Alice Page," he replied. "What, the girl you wanted us to invite to go on the yacht?" asked

"That's the one, and, as you know, she wouldn't come."

"Which shows her good sense," interrupted Blanch. "Well, what can I do in the matter?"

"Much if 'you want to, and nothing if you don't," he answered. "The fact is, sis, I want you to pack a trunk and go with me to call on her. She is mighty proud, and I imagine that is why she turned the cold shoulder on my efforts to get her to come to Boston to meet you all. Now, if you go there, if only for one night, the ice will be broken, and of course you will invite her to visit you and all will go

"A nice little scheme," responded Blanch, "but what will mamma and

the plotter. it. Just tell them you are going to Saratoga with me for a few days. We will go there if you like, only we will rack. It was "Ben Bolt?" stop off at Sandgate on the way. Now, do this for me, sis, and I'll buy you the earth when Christmas comes!'

"Well, you will have to stay here real nice to mamma and Ede all the time, or I can't fix it. Lucky for you, Master Frank, that they are out driv-

"But why must we walt four days?" asked Frank petulantly.

"Because, my love lorn brother, in the first place I don't want to miss the selected the opportunity to say, "Well, say, what do you think?"

Saturday night hop, and then we are booked for a buckboard ride tomorrow. the best of me," he would say to him. Another reason is I mean to pay you

off on the Gypsy.' That afternoon Frank wrote Alice the some pleasure and a little vexation by

hotel and courted her every chance I and we haven't been here six hours." longest letter she had ever received, hine full pages. It was received with taking her face in his hands, kissed

"Mr. Nason and his sister are coming CHAPTER XXVIII. here Monday," said she to Aunt Susan, WO days of Alice's visitation "and we must put on our best bib and tucker, I suppose. But how we can The first day they drove to contrive to entertain his sister is bethe old mill and spent the en-tire forenoon gathering lilles and yond me." Nevertheless, she was rather pleased at the prospective visttation. Her school had been closed and clattered between its moss grown of Maine, fared no better. To them he only stated that he had found several When Albert had written regarding of those old time landmarks, now so walls. It was a curiosity to Blanch, promising clews and was following them as rapidly as possible, but it all cost money, and would they kindly send a draft on account for necessary send a draft on account for necessary when Albert had taken to take the cost of the mountain's top and saw the sunset of the mountain's t to join a yachting party, providing his mother and sister decided to go, she day they made a picnic trip to another no difference, for if the supposedly and walking the rest of the way. At noon they returned, and beside a cold spring that bubbled beneath a rock No man ever got the best of me, and in the world to accept it. To so they opened their lunch baskets. Then the long run no man ever shall!" go out of her way for the possible opthey picked flowers, hunted for win-But there is a Nemesis that follows portunity of allowing the only son of tergreen and decked the horse and wagon with ferns and wreaths of laurel-only simple country pleasures, it to the sense of right and justice. In Rether a thousand times would she is true, but they at least had the Frye's case the avenging goddess lurk-ed in his inordinate belief in his own teach school in single blessedness all charm of newness for two of the party.

That evening they sang all sorts of the party of the party of the party of the party of the party. shrewdness, coupled with a fatuous herself in the way of a probable love of speculation. A few lucky venlove of speculation. A few lucky ven-tures at first in the stock market had Frank she was not at all sure. He ways that she admired her new found was a good looking young fellow and friend that there was no further restraint. "I wish you would stay with me un-til my school begins, Blanch," said was then selling in Chicago at 90 cents. work to kill time. When she received Alice at the close of the evening. "If you knew how lonely I am, I am sure

"I might be persuaded to make a

"I won't promise now," answered

"I should like to see that schoolhouse

It was the first allusion to his inter-

"We will drive by where that girl

The next morning, when Frank and

said, "and I want to see it when the

When they reached the spot she at

"You two go after lilles," she said

"All right, only your smiles will be

and jested on all manner of subjects-

one round arm to the elbow and, pull-

ach, pelted her envaller with them.

"Did you learn that stroke at col-

"Oh, we must not stop. It's almost

"Won't you get out, Miss Page?" he

to you and and it's nice to sit in the

Without a word or even a look she

stepped out of the boat. Only a few

steps up a mossy bank offered its temp

tation, and with quick gallantry he

drew his coat off and spread it for her

"It's nice and cool here," she said

"but we must not stay long. Blanch

Frank had thought many times of

what he would say and how he would

say it, but now that the critical mo-

ment had come his well chosen words

vanished. He had remained standing

she sat with hat hidden face, and

then his heart-burst came

and for a moment looked at Alice as

"Miss Page," he said in a low voice,

you must know what I want to say,

Maine to say it, and can you—is there

any hope for me? Is there just a little?"

her head sank a trifle lower, and now

even the tip of her chin was invisible

beneath the hat. It may be the move-

ment emboldened him, for in an in-

stant he was beside her on the ground

"Tell me, Alice," he pleaded, "is there any chance for me? Say just

The prisoned hand was at his lips

now, and then she raised her face, and

-oh, divine sight!-those blue eyes

One instant flash of heaven only

quickly and, turning away, said half

petulantly: "Oh, please don't speak of

But still he held the little hand, and

"Do you mean it, Alice?

as she tried to draw it away he said

and had one hand a prisoner.

were filled with tears.

go back to the mill."

without one word of hope!"

He paused, but no answer came, only

to sit upon

will be waiting."

games, and when that topic was ex- the boat. And now what spirit of mis-

sun gets down so it will be shady

est in her that Blanch had made, and

ponded Blanch.

foot girl he told about."

Frye bought 50,000 bushels on a mar- the letter announcing his determina-France and Germany growled, tion to study law and become a useful you would.' and wheat rose to 04. Frye sold, clear man in the world she thought better ing \$2,000. Then it dropped a cent, of him. When he came up in June longer visit next summer," was the and Frye bought a hundred thousand it became clear that he was in love answer, "if you will return this visit bushels more. Once again the war with her. So self evident were his next winter. Will you?" cloud grew black, and wheat rose to feelings that she at that time felt com-98. The papers were full of wild ru- pelled to avoid giving him a chance Alice. "I am afraid I should be out of mors, and the Wall Street Bugle said to express them. Her heart was and place in your society. I'm only a counwheat would look cheap at a dollar and always had been entirely free from the try girl, you know."
"I shall feel hurt if you don't," rehalf inside of a month. Then it ad- pangs of love, and while his devotion vanced to \$1, and Frye lost his head. was in a way quite flattering, the one His holdings showed a profit of \$7,000, insurmountable barrier was his family and sudden riches stared him in the Had he been more diplomatic he would Frank has spoken of several times," she said a little later, "and that bare-

Frye doubled his holdings. Then the 'I am a poor girl," Alice thought, powers that had growled smiled faint- when he made the admission, "but I'll Alice colored. ly, and in one day wheat fell to 93 and | wear old clothes all my life before his

ent and then dropping two, and when related the village gossip to her she in my school." Uncle Terry and Albert were discussing had thought a good many times about how to checkmate his further robbing the cause of it, but to no one had she his sister were alone for a few moof the lighthouse keeper he was, with mentioned the matter. Her only as ments, she said, "I am going to do you muttered curses, watching his ill gotsociate, good natured Abby Miles, had a good turn today, Sir Mahomet, and

meals and forgot to shave. He had sister were coming to Sandgate, Alice 'Sweet Alice' to go after pond lilles mortgaged his real estate for \$20,000, felt a good deal worried. Firstly, and leave me here. and that was nearly gone. Wheat was now down to 80, and France and Germany were shaking hands.

she knew her own stock of gowns was inadequate. While not vain of her looks, she yet felt his sister would the trip, "and leaving your sister alone, Five could not sleep nights. His consider her countrified in dress or and then it is almost too warm to be margins were almost exhausted and else realize the truth that she was out in the sun this morning. If she his resources as well. He had put up painfully poor. She had made the feels better this afternoon we will go \$40,000, and if wheat fell 3 cents more money her brother gave her go as far there when the sun gets part way would be all swept away. Then he as possible. Her own small salary down. executed a second mortgage at high in- was not more than enough to pay curterest and waited. It was the last shot in his locker, and all that stood between him and ruin, but wheat advanced 2 guests to their rooms, her worry began. cents, and he began to hope. He had A trunk had come, and as she busted | absolutely ignored business for two herself to help Aunt Susan get supper weeks, and now he went to work again. under way before she changed her dress | there. she was morally sure Miss Nason would appear in a gown fit for a state once developed an unusual interest in thought. He wrote to Thygeson & Co. dinner. But when she was dressed the mill and began an animated conthat he had at last found the heir they and went out on the porch, where her versation with the miller regarding it were in search of and described what guests were, she found Miss Blanch at- and its history. tired in a white muslin, severe in its simplicity. It was a pleasant surprise, sand dollars all and sufficient proofs of and at no time during their stay did leave me here. I'm afraid the sun on identity of the claimant would be for-During the conversation that evening | ache Blanch gave an interesting description of her life in the mountains, who were wasted on the miller. He is too old to there, what gowns the ladies wore, the appreciate them. We won't be gone hops, drives, tennis, croquet and whist long," said Alice as she stepped into

hausted Alice turned to Frank and chief had come over her? She joked said, "Now, tell us about your trip." "There is not much to tell," he and the boat, his rowing, Blanch's interest swered in a disappointed tone. "The in the miller-and her blue eyes spar fact is, my yachting trip was a failure. kled with roguish intent. She bared I had a two weeks' trip al! mapped out, no end of stores on board, and anticipated lots of fun, but it didn't materisome unfortunate alliance. It was the island, and we didn't find him un- lege," she asked when one of his oars til the next day. In the meantime he slipped, "or is that the way a yachtswe ran to Bar Harbor, and the rest of the, for he was thinking how best to the boys found some girls they knew say what was on his mind. He headed and decided that a gander cruise had the beat for the shore, and as it came lost its charms. So I threw up my to a stop he said: "Let's get out and sit hands and turned the Gypsy over to on the bank, Miss Page. I want to Bert, and for all I know or care he is rest.'

using her to entertain his island fairy." Allee joined with Blanch in a good sundown, and, bosides, I want more laugh at Frank's description of his trip. lilles." When the chitchat slowed down Alice said: "I don't know how to entertain asked. "I've something I want to say you two good people in this dull place. There are mountains and woods galore shade and talk." and lots of pretty drives. And," looking at Frank, "I know where there is arose and, taking his proffered hand, a nice mill pond full of lilles and an old moss covered mill and a miller that looks like a pleture in story books. There is also a drive to the top of the mountain, where the view is simply grand. I have a steady going and faithful old horse, and we will go wher-

ever you like." "Do not worry about me, Miss Page," replied Blanch. "If I can see mountain and woods I am perfectly happy."

When the evening was nearing its close Frank begged Alice to sing, but she declined

"Do you play or sing, Miss Nason?" she asked cautiously. "Oh, please don't be afraid of me,"

was the answer. "I never touched a piano in my life. Once in awhile I join in the chorus, as they say, for my own amusement and the amazement of others, but that is all." It wasn't all, for she played the gultar and sang sweetly. Finally Alice

was persuaded to open the piano, and then out upon the still night air there floated many an old time ballad. After that she played selections from a few of the latest light operas that Frank had sent her and then turned away. "Oh, don't stop now," exclaimed both her guests at once. "Sing a few more songs." Then, with almost an air of "Oh, never mind them," answered proprietorship, Frank arose and, goin "They need never know to the plane, searched for and found a well worn song. Without a word he opened it and placed it on the must A faint and then a change came. She arose color rose in Alice's face, but she turned and played the preliade without a petulantly: "Oh, please don't speak of word. When she had sung the first that now and spoil our visit. Let us verse, to her surprise Blanch was standuntil Monday," said Blanch, "and be ing beside her and joined her voice in the next one. When it was finished Frank insisted on a repetition, and after that all three sang a dozen more of Is it no? Oh. don't let me go away the sweet old time sougs so familiar to all. Then Alice left the room to bring in a light lunch, and Frank

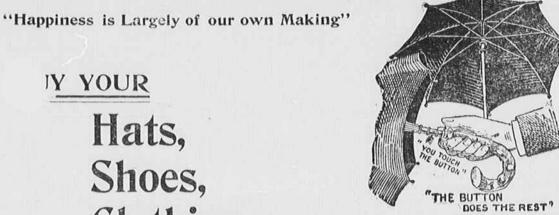
> "I think," she replied, "that you were foolish to go yachting at all. If | Bears the I had been you I should have come up here in the first place, stayed at the

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