BELLEFONTE, PA.

## ROME WAS 'NT BUILT IN A DAY.

BY ALICE CARBY. The boy who does a stroke and stops Will ne'er a great man be, 'Tis the aggregate of single drops That makes the sea the sea.

The mountain was not at its birth A mountain so to speak, The little atoms of sand and earth Have made its peak a peak.

Not all at once the morning streams, The gold above the gray, The thousand little yellow gleams That makes the day the day.

Not from the snowdrift May awakes in purples, reds and greens, Spring's whele bright retinue it takes To make her queen of queens.

Upon the orchard rain must fall, And soak from branch to root, And blossoms bloom and fade withal, Before the fruit is fruit.

The farmer needs must sow and till, , And wait the wheaten bread, Then cradle, thresh and go to mill Before the bread is bread.

Swift heels may get the early shout But spite of all the dio, It is the patient holding out That makes the winner win.

Make this your motto, then, at start, "fwill help to smooth the way, And steady up both hand and heart—Rome wasn't built in a day!"

## THE SISTERS; OR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.

I might as well entitle this story "My Parents," if I intended the interest of it to turn upon the elements of the unknown. As much strangeness and bewilderment came to me from that source as from the other.

When I returned home, at the age

of seventeen, from the home of an aunt, where I had been brought up, I found my two sisters tall, beautiful girls.

Maria, the eldest, was polished, graceful, intellectual; but there was something about her that I could not furbon. She went into society, dress ed, danced, smiled at admiration like other girls, but with a kind of indifference through it all, a coldness not be tokened by the warm black eyes and full red lips. Once, at some apphrently trivial allusion, I saw her eyes suddenly kindle, and flash upon my mothers. er a look of boiling rage. Then she bit her lips till they were white, her face snatched back its repose, and I saw that my beautiful sister possessed a power of self-control which I had but I trust not, with a fixed look at not dreamed of.

Adeline, the younger one, also had a better, perhaps than the other-for it only did not attract, but warded off

My name is Amelia: and I need not say anything more about myself.

My mother was a Frenchwoman, of

consumm to tact, ruling her own house as her scapter could reach; and my sisters submitted willingly to her dictation in their plans and pleasures, in all matters regarding society and eti-quette; but there was no confidence between them

My father was a gentleman of the old school, small in stature, of measured tones and ways, dry and matter of fact. Here, one would have said, no passion could ever be-had ever

been.
We lived in a large, handsome bouse, in a pleasant neighborhood, not very far from Liver; ool. The mansion was furnished with old fashioned elegance. surrounded by a garden whose elmshad been planted by my father's great grandfather I was initiated, immediately on my arrival, into a gay, hospitable circle

One evening at the Christmas season of 1868 my mother gave a large party All the appointments were elegant The spacious misheson echoed to the strains of a band of music ly drawing rooms were decked with lifewers. I have selden seen a more doing the honors of the scene Maria the latch turned, and Mr. Eccleston in her usual impassive way. I watch ed them closely, to see if I could diffect I any signs of preference for any of the numerous admirers who thronged around them; for, as I knew this to that I might here find a clue to the mystery that enveloped Marin and

As Maria was bidding adieu to a Mr. Eccleston, a young gentleman with whom she had neither danced nor con versed more than with others, she said to him .

"I hope you have passed a pleasant evening, Mr. Eccleston?"

Throk out, Miss Jessop," he replied; "I have and "

The last word was insudible to all ane nest worst was insudible to all save to Maria and to me, who had ea gerly turned. It was over in a moment, the look that passed. Then Maria grew as white as the camelia on her bosom.

I atterwards learned that one or two nights in every week, Maria would wrap herself in a cloud, and beave the house, remembing away an lour or more, notwithstanding the bleakness of that Christmas season. A night or two after the party, my mother discovered her absence. When Maria re-turned, she found my father up and ready for her The scene that ensued in the adjoining room, which was my mother's dressing-room, would form, in truth, a scene for a tragedy. Maria, oronching in a heap on the floor, by the couch, enveloped in her immense cloak—my mother in her white night dress, her black hair streaming almost spot of anger to each cheek her mag. shall marry him?" to her feet her eyes glowing, a red nificent aim extended towards her poor, shrinking daughter, as she stood of beg of you to stop and think! Do opposite my father, orging him on, not give way to passion!" needed no nigney, however. Nevet had I magned such depths and "Madarh, I never was cooler of more concentration of possion, such venous determined in all my life. When does in words and tones. When a le ifully the young man come here again?" violent temper-what an imperional

will lay hidder-anderneath that nigthidical exterior! I did not wonder that Many covered; and I perceived something of one of floore under which the family-lived ton-had hitherto been unknown to me

He seem I to be taunting Macia with something Suddenly she bering to her feet and cried, "It is not true it is not true! I have not seen him! I never went out to meet him! I have in your presence. He has kept his promise, and I have obeyed you."

"What sent you out to night, then?" hissed my father between his teeth.

"I went—I went," answered Marin, "to see the house where he lives—to walk around it-to see the light in his

window, I could not help it."
"So y asid my father; and if ever human accent and features expressed contempt, utter contempt, his did. Solalove-sick ramble! You could not help it!"

Maria dropped on the floor again. My father turned to his wife.

"So, madam, this is the way you bring up your children!"

It was my mother's turn to tremble. She tried to keep her eyen steady, and her bearing erect, but in vain. My father came close to her, and added some words, in a low tone, of which I only caught sufficient to know that they referred to his early life-their early life. They had, then, a past heart-stirring and eventful enough to be alluded to in a moment such as this. How I longed to know it! Even then I speculated, "Had he ever loved her? Had she ever loved him?"

The household sank in silence again -Maria crept to her bed; refused next day to answer my inquiries; refused my sympathy; met my father's cere monous courtesy, at the breakinsttable, with her usual dignified, lady like demeanor. When all other eyes were cast down, Adelaide looked at me, and smiled.

Mr. Eccleston called that week to pay his respects after the Christmas party, and also to pay his adieux pre paratory to going to America.

"And when do you intend to sail?"

inquired inv mother.

"The week after next, in the Persia," he replied. "I am weary of this life."

"On Saturday ?" continued my moth "The Persian day of sailing isbegan Maria, but Mr. Eccleston inter runted her with some remark

"Do you go alone?" asked my mot er.
"I do not yet know," he answered

Soon Mr. Eccleston rose to go "I faculty of secretiveness. Her mask will not say good by," he continued was a gay, whimsical, careless one; of shall pass the garden gate the morn ing or my departure, on my way to the train, and I may run in for a few moments. Till then—"And he shook

hands with all the ladies Not a look of triumph, of comprehension, did my mother permit herself, and yet she had understood the whole.

"I go in the Persia, week after next -I hope and trust not to go alone -I shall be at the garden gate in the morning, in time to take the train -- I can stop but a few moments-ull

In her own house, in conversation with herself, had he dared to arrange the scheme-thus not breaking his promise of holding no communication

with Maria, except in her parents' pres "Maria," said my mother, as the former was leaving the room, "take

Maria turned, and they faced eacl other for a few moments, apparently forgetting they were mother and daugh-ter, meeting on equal ground

My mother let the days pass on with the assurance of one who holds the carte in her own hand. The following Wednesday Maria asked me to take walk to the neighboring village with

"Let us go out the back gate, Ame

ling to the entit As we approached this gate, which beautiful aight than my two sisters was shaded by some thick elin trees. oppeared "Maria"

"Henry!"

Not a word more was said, but she had ber hand in his with an expression of mediane of confidence. He be a general party, including all the sion of incland of confidence. He best families of the country, I thought bowed gravety over it, holding it firm

> Maria turned to me, saying, "Tell my mother, Amelia, that the Persia's day of sailing is Wednesday, not Saturday, se she might have found by looking at the papers. Her arrange-ments were undoubtedly made for Satmday I shall not be there then Good by! heaven bless you!'

A d before I could half understand what he was about, she passed through the girden gate, Mr. Eccleston had lifted her into his phaeton, and they were gone.

Ob, but my father's rage was terri le! My mother, overwhelmed with mort fication and anger at her over eight, hore it in silence, with Adelaide

At last he turned to Adelaide. 'N. . . r shall another daughter of mine diegrace herself so! Adelaide, have you been flirting with any one? on have -- hy heaven, you shall marry him, and that at once! Did I not hear something once said about the music master?

Adelaide colored crimson.

"Ali!" said my father. "How far has it gone? Does he profess to love Answer my question.

"Y . .," faltered Adelaide.

"And you love him-enough to flire with him?" eaid he. "Very well! You

"Passion!" returned my father "To day," admitted Adelaide.

It so happened that, within half an hour, he rang the tell. My lather walked into the library.
"So, sir, you have been making love

to my daughter have you?" Mr. Bernard flusled and stammered, A am not going to quarrel with you arout it now," continued my father. "I only wish to know it you want to marry her? It so, you wust do it immediately. I'll give her to you with five thousand pounds in three weeks from this day. Do you want time to make up your mind? Here, Adelaide, he called out, "come here to me!"

Adelaide came in. "Your lover wants time to decide." "You inistake, Mr. Jessop," said young Mr. Bernard. "All this is so sudden, so strange! I did not know

whether Miss Adelaide was willing."
"Willing! Faith! and I havn tasked her. I asked you it you were willing to take her," answered my father. "I'm a practical man, Mr. Bernerd," he continued, regaining his ordinary measured tones, "and I'll have no more nonsense in my house. My eldest daughter has just put the crowning touch to a most unhappy entangle ment by running away to get married. I intend my second daughter shall finish her flirtution by getting married

under my own eyes "So it was arranged My mother tried in vain to change my father's de termination by every representation and art. As for Adelaide, she appear

ed to be very happy.
"Have you made fitting prepara-tions?" my father asked my mother when the day came.

"I did not suppose that any were necessary beyond sending notice to the clergyman, which I believe you have

done," was her answer
"No preparations necessary," said
he. Certainly, they are necessary
My daughter must be married in a becoming way, in the house of her father It is due to myself—to my name. hour for the ceremony was ten, I beheve. Let it be delayed one hour. That, I should think would afford you time to order a proper collation, and all things accordingly

At the appointed hour my father came walking slowly down stairs, drawing on his white kid gloves, dressed with the utmost precision. There had been a little contusion in the house, wing to the absence of the bridegroom A note head been sent, warning him of the change of hour, but as he did not present himself at eleven o'clock, it had been followed by a message to as certain if it had been delivered. The econd messenger returned, saying that Mr Bernard had been stricken with a

"Well, girl, will you go and nurse him? said my father to Adelaide "No? Notin case of fever? Well I believe you are right. He's not worth risking your life for, and you're not married to him vet

My father took off his white kid gloves. Poor Adelaide went to her room. We ate some of the collation for lunch

Mr. Bernard was very ill; and, in spite of all care and skill, he died that

Did Adelaide's heart break? No the was quite a belle in Brighton last Christmas.

## A Rare and Interesting Case.

We chronicle the facts as we heard them, of one of the most remarkable of the partial aberration of the al faculties, an Idiosyncrasy as are as it is interesting in a philosophial point of view. A single lady in her third decade, residing in this county, of most respectable parentage and connec-tions, and in possession of ample means became acquainted some ten years ago with a minister of the Reformed Church, who was then as now living in Pennsylvania. He was here at that time on a visit, she heard him preach but once, and during his brief sojourn nothing but the most common courtesies of the most casual acquaintance ever passed between them. Since that time she has read a work published of which he is the author, and has also read as they have appeared from time to time, several articles of his which were published in a Church paper About a year ago, she fancied the Rev rend gent referred to, had gone through a regular and formal courtship, (by ) a regular and formal coursing, (by the ref) that she hid accepted him, and the wedding day we fixed, not an early one to be sure, but nevertheless one agreed by the contracting parties. This fancy grew in her mind to a fixed and settled fact, and during the past year she has been very indutriously employed in getting and prepareing the thousand and one things supposed to be indespensible to a lady a frosseau, and also having roady some of the articles required in keeping house. At the proper time she ordered an ample supply of elegant cakes, fruit, confectionary, &c; indeed omitted no particular in the "variety by an elegant and bountiful least; then the invitations were issued, and this brings ter) that she had accepted him, and the egant and bountiful least, this brings vitations were issued, and this brings us to the bridal eve, when all was ready but the bridegroom the was hundreds of miles away; and in blissful ignorance that his coming was so anxiously look-ed for -his presence so necessary to a continuation of the ceremonies. So ad-mirably had the lady arranged all hor plans, so exactly and successfully had she executed them, that it was not un-til the year last moment that her relatil the very last moment that her rela-tives and friends had reason to believe that she was the victim of an hallucina tion. She now thinks that some acci-dent, some dispensation of Providence provented his coming at the time ap-pointed, but that he will surely come, she doubts not. This is such a case as demands our sincers sympathies —although some unfeeling brutes may find it a source of course jest and vulgar mirth. We may add that on all other subjects her mind is as sound as a dollar. Frederick Union.

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