

DEAD-HEADED.

"All aboard!" shouted the conductor. "Have you got everything?" asked a voice; and a girl's face appeared at the car window—a face with laughing eyes and pretty, wind-blown hair.

"Take care, Lotty," said the elder lady within; "don't put your head too close. I heard ones of us had chin being carried away by just such a piece of carelessness."

"Yes," chimed in another voice, merrily and deeply-chested, with a boyish squeak just discernible in it; "clean off, dimple and all! And the doctor, he made another chin out of gout-parches, but the dimple was such a dead failure that—"

"Oh, mercy!" screamed his aunt; "the hornets' nest! I knew something was missing. My hornets' nest, Henry—it is in the wagon. Run—run and fetch it; that's a dear boy! I can't go without it."

Henry smiled, while the group of girls on the platform exchanged smiles and winks, and "a secret laughter, tickling all their souls," volunteered advice of various sorts to their departing relatives.

"Are you sure that's the only thing left, Aunt Sue?" suggested Dora. "I don't see the biggest box anywhere."

"Here it is," replied Aunt Sue, heaving up a substantial quoit. "I think I have every thing. Let me see," counting on her fingers: "Figuer, 'Earthly Paradise,' umbrellas,shawl, lunch basket, mose—"

"Big box, little box!" cried Fauny. "Where is that lovely box?" Oh, Aunt Sue, whatever size you lose, don't lose that!"

"I have it safe," said her aunt, grimly; "but not for its loveliness—well, you know my opinion of it, girls, if you did give it to me. It is extremely pretty, but a most absurd gimcrack for a sensible woman to carry about;" rising from her lap as she spoke a choice little article in crimson satin, glistening like turquoises, and exhibiting it to her nieces.

"Oh, aunty!" clamored an indignant chorus; "how base, how horrid of you! So pretty, so strong, so convenient!"

"I had with a muff, too!" cried Lotty; "a muff to keep my hands warm, and old hands warm. I really wonder at you, Aunt Sue."

"Muff, indeed!" sniffed her aunt, undaunted; "a blue silk aperture! As if I ever put my fingers in such a thing as that! No, girls, depend upon it, at my age gimberring is the way around!" Where is Henry? Why don't he come?"

In effect, the train began to move, though slowly that it was easy for a walker to keep pace with its motion. The nieces ran along, chattering and laughing with their aunt—saucy, many words. Aunt Sue was laughed at and teased, and beloved by the gay boy, quite as if she too had been a girl like themselves.

At the last second a figure came leaping along the platform, a gray horse was driven through a window, the wrong one, as it happened—and into the face of an old gentleman, who shrank back asthmatically.

"Hornets!" he ejaculated. "Ugh! ouch!

take it away! What do you mean, young

"I beg your pardon," said Henry, splitting with laughter. "I made a mistake. Here, aunty, here's your precious commodity." This time the object popped through the right pane and landed in Aunt Sue's lap. The train moved on, reaching "Goodby" speed by the time it stopped behind Aunt Sue. She waved her handkerchief, and then, regardless of the glare of offense directed at her spine, proceeded to tie her treasure to the setting above, and to make herself generally comfortable.

"The change at the river," she thought, "and then I can settle down for the day." And she proceeded to look out and mark certain pages in "Figuer," to point a pencil, and otherwise prepare for a course of entomological research, or a circumstantial narrative. By this time the old gentleman behind had recovered breath and power of remonstrance.

"I suppose you are aware, madame," he said, touching her shoulder sharply, "that the hornets are there. If you do not credit my word you only to look into that hole," said he, pointing to the great gray mouth of the tunnel.

"Oh, dear, no, that is quite a mistake," replied Aunt Sue, facing round upon him.

Figuer entirely contradicted that notion. He was silent.

I do not know who Viger may be, nor do I care what he says," interrupted the old gentleman. "All I say is that the hornets are there. If you do not credit my word you only to look into that hole," said he, pointing to the great gray mouth of the tunnel.

"Well, then," said Aunt Sue cheerfully, "I was just wishing for an insect to examine in connection with the book. Thank you, sir. You see he is quite dead," extricating the hornet with her pencil point and holding him up triumphantly. Figuer was right.

The old gentleman, with deep silence, rose and changed his seat for one at a distance. Little rocked Aunt Sue, deep in the study of the hornets, nor did she look up until the conductor spoke, and he became necessary to provide the "two-bit ticket" and his first strip torn from his complicated folding.

"The river reached," it became necessary to transfer her impediments to another car.

Aunt Sue was now almost as much a man, by now, as she seemed almost as a mother.

Good-looking and well-dressed of course.

His eyes elevated themselves a very little, to be sure; but that might have arisen from sympathy; and his questions were polite and to the point. His gray mustache and beard, however, were intensely aristocratic. W. Lansing, 21 division. "That dear, good man," she thought, "if he does find my purse I declare I must send him something. Such kindness ought to be encouraged. I am sure he is a good man."

"But after all," she went on, turning over her long strip of uncut tickets, "I'm rather glad that it happened. I shall just enclose those to that good Mr. Lansing, and thank him over again for his trouble."

"The count is the world, but this world is a little world," she mused, "as far as everybody as I have been, or where, upon the whole, so much kindness is shown to unprotected females who travel about and need assistance."

In this belief Aunt Sue rests to this day.

— CLOTHES OFF DUTY.

Pictoresque Make-up of the President When He Takes a Smoke.

Town, in Boston Traveler.

President Cleveland is almost as much of a "night-owl" as was the late President Arthur, Mr. Cleveland, as an early riser, while his predecessor had his bed fast before 11 o'clock, and sometimes it was long after noon before he was ready to be up again.

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