

By JOHN HABBERTON, Author of "Helen's Babies," Etc.

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CHAPTER XVII. THE NEW CLERK.

OUR mother's out, as usual, I suppose, said Mr. Tramlay to his oldest daughter, as he came home in the afternoon and found her alone in the house after the manner of family men in general when their wives are away.

"I ought to know it by this time, I suppose," said the merchant, "and I don't begrudge her a moment of it, but somehow the house is never quite the same when she is out of it."

Lucia looked at her father with a little wonder in her face. Then she laughed, not very cheerfully, and said: "Father, do you know that you're dreadfully old-fashioned?"

"I suppose so. Maybe it's for the best," said Lucia. "I think I'm a little better off than you are, and I don't begrudge you a moment of it, but somehow the house is never quite the same when she is out of it."

"Why are you looking at me so queerly?" suddenly asked the father. Lucia recovered herself, and said: "I was only wondering whether you never got tired of looking for me as soon as you came home."

"Certainly not," said the merchant. "Most husbands do, sooner or later," said Lucia. "Perhaps I will, some day," the father replied, "and I can tell you when it will be."

"I think I'll be about the day after eternity ends," was the reply. "Not a day sooner. But what do you know about what some husbands do, you little simp?"

"Oh, I don't know," said Lucia, dropping upon the piano stool and making some chords and discords. "It came into my mind; that's all."

"Well, I hope that some day you'll find out to your own satisfaction. By the way, I wish you'd get out of that morning gown. My new clerk is coming to dinner."

ing, and his remembrance of various men whom he had been behaving awkwardly in the presence of young ladies made him quiver with a little nervousness.

"How do you do, Phil? I'm ever so glad to see you back again," said Lucia. "You know the usual drive always keeps her out until about 6."

"I'm glad to see you," said Lucia. "You know the usual drive always keeps her out until about 6." "I'm glad to see you," said Lucia. "You know the usual drive always keeps her out until about 6."

"There's some down town places," said Lucia. "I'm glad to see you," said Lucia. "You know the usual drive always keeps her out until about 6."

"You children are not to worry Phil with any of your trifling affairs," said the head of the household. "I'm glad to see you," said Lucia. "You know the usual drive always keeps her out until about 6."

"What is the matter, child?" asked the father, tenderly. "Too much candy—too few parties!"

"Oh, nothing that I know of," said the girl, warmly. "I'll feel better when real cold weather comes, I suppose."

"I'm glad to see you," said Lucia. "You know the usual drive always keeps her out until about 6." "I'm glad to see you," said Lucia. "You know the usual drive always keeps her out until about 6."

"Because you're a dear, thoughtful old man, who's always trying to do good," said Lucia. "I'm glad to see you," said Lucia. "You know the usual drive always keeps her out until about 6."

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servant by Tramlay's more experienced hand. The railroad man who wanted iron, he was paid for partly by stock in their roads, he was paid for partly by stock in their roads, he was paid for partly by stock in their roads.

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the deliberate Margo to take a small bottle of champagne with his midday luncheon—a luxury which he usually reserved until evening.

"But again he was startled when a light beamed friend complained that, although the said friend's father had been promised a place for his son in Tramlay's office when the family more gain in the country, his son had taken in a countryman instead."

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Phil was bemoaning what he believed to be the loss of a sweetheart, but the old man's thoughts were equally full of the possibility of a daughter-in-law who might possibly have longed for through many years, but been denied.

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"Don't, don't," drawled the old man, with a queer smile and a quizzical look. "Well, I suppose it is a good deal more takin' than his father's."

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