

a rest, to which she laughingly assented, and they sat down under an oak by the road.

"Helen," said Jack, "do you know that this is my last term at Lincoln?"

"Is it?" she responded, laughing. "Indeed I'm very sorry; but then you can come back next year if you wish."

Jack did not know what to make of this. He failed to detect anything serious in her tone, and yet he did not know whether she was teasing him or not.

"Are you really sorry that I am going?" he asked.

"Certainly; why shouldn't I be?" she replied.

Jack didn't know how to reply to this, and thinking the mock seriousness in her eyes to be real; he became confused.

Helen enjoyed this hugely. It was a new experience to her, and she found great delight in keeping this big fellow on pins and needles.

"I thought you cared," he stammered.

"You thought I cared," she said; "about what?" Her eyes were now dancing with merriment, and this time Jack saw that she was making fun of him.

Now no young fellow likes to be laughed at, especially by the one girl he likes best, and as Jack was only human he began to get angry. But the angrier he grew the cooler and more collected became his tormentor. No matter what he said it was always the subject of the liveliest banter on her part, until finally he relapsed into a sullen silence.

This was broken by Helen, who said sweetly, "Mr. Winters, do you approve of the bloomer costume for lady cyclists?"

This was the last straw, and Jack found it hard to contain himself. She was not satisfied with teasing him half to death, as she had, but she must introduce this subject also. He nevertheless told her what he thought about it, ending with the declaration that he would never have anything to do with a girl who wore bloomers.

"Won't you?" she replied, and then half defiantly, "well, I shall order just such a suit for this summer."

Jack was amazed at this cool assertion, but he did not have much time to think about it for just then the rest of the party was seen approaching. Jack and Helen were greeted with a laugh, but as they also joined in it the matter was dropped.