

heads mournfully over the hoydenish ways of maidens of the present day.

The afternoon slipped away, and it was nearly dusk when they decided to turn back. They were then skirting the edge of a large estate whose magnificent trees and smooth sloping lawn, together with the fine mansion, proclaimed it to be the possession of some old and wealthy family.

Just then a rattling sound was heard, and in an instant Helen Stratton was lying in the middle of the road with her wheel near by. Her friend dismounted and hurried towards her. But Helen, more frightened than hurt, was soon on her feet and they both turned their attention to the wheel. On examining it they found that the chain had separated on account of the connecting pin's having lost its burr, and the chain had clogged the wheel.

Of course it was useless to look for the burr now and the girls sat down under one of the large trees to discuss the situation.

It was an accident that they had not looked for. Being nearly ten miles from the hotel, with a broken wheel and night coming on, they were certainly in a predicament. They saw the mansion through the trees, and were just ready to start out in that direction when some laborers were seen returning from their work. The light was now very uncertain.

As the men came up, Miss Kingsley made some inquiries about the house its and occupants. Then seeing the figure under the tree, the workmen questioned her about "that young fellow over there."

Now this mistake was not so unpardonable as may be supposed, the deception being made all the more probable by the short hair of the "young fellow" referred to.

Helen heard all and she was very much amused at the mistake. Then the mischievous idea came into her head to palm herself off as a young man when they went up to the house.

Eva explained to the men that her companion's bicycle had broken and that they were in search of a conveyance to take them to the hotel that night. The laborers told them to inquire at the house and then proceeded on their way, while Eva went back to her friend.

The girls made their way up to the mansion with their wheels, laughing at the ludicrous mistake of the men. Helen now divulged her plan to her friend. At first Eva would not consent, but finally, won over by Helen's pleadings, she agreed to lend her assistance.