

HER BROTHER'S SISTER.

“I THINK you had better take a few weeks' trip down into the country, Kenneth,” said my mother at dinner. “I intend to pay Uncle Henry a visit soon and you may as well go along and rusticate for a month or so. You'll feel more like getting down to your profession afterward.”

“But,” I protested, “it's such a slow-going, out-of-the-way place. Why, I'm sure I'd die of stagnation within a week. I don't believe I'd see a newspaper the whole time.”

“Well,” said father, “you'd enjoy the outing, anyhow. There's no finer lake for small fishing, and no healthier and more picturesque spot in the state than your uncle's place. Besides, the sun and the air will do you good. You've actually grown pale poring over your books.”

To tell the truth, I *had* studied rather hard during my last few months at college, in order that I might come out respectably near the head of the class, and I wasn't sure but that my father was right. More than that, I was an exceedingly obedient child, and since the combined wills of my parents seemed bent upon my outing, I calmly submitted. But in my mind I pictured at least three endless weeks in a lonely village, where the general topic of conversation would be the prospects of a good harvest, or the probable winner of the *grand prix* at the county fair, or the latest war news—a week old, of course—which would be brought up and rehashed at every meal. Then there were visions of curious bumpkins who would crowd about and ask all sorts of silly questions about the city, its life, its pitfalls, its amusements, about college, about everything, just as though one were a traveling encyclopædia created for their sole use and delectation. Also the prospect of three or four Sundays in the country, when one would be compelled to ride to church in a rattling, creaking spring-wagon, with “the folks,” and sit in a hard, comfortless wooden pew for an hour and a half, listening to the rambling and perhaps not too erudite utterances of a circuit minister. These, and similar reflections rose in my mind as I finished my dinner.