WAVERLAND.

A TALE OF COU[illegible] AND LANDLORDS.

BY SARAH [illegible] PENRHAM.

[illegible]

Soon [illegible] completed. The [illegible] door, Myrtle [illegible]. The lunch [illegible] and [illegible] every[illegible] ure [illegible] waiter [illegible] company [illegible] With eager hearts we waited for Sir Wren's.

As we passed through the little tenant village we saw many a pleasant face, eager for a smile from the "swate leddy!"

"Are you doing anything to help my cause in the coming election?" I asked of Stella.

"Only remembering old acquaintances and making a few new ones," she said.

"I can see a great change in the condition of the people on your estate since last year."

"I know they are more comfortable and I think more contented. But who could blame them for being discontented? Hunger and cold would affect even my placid temperament," I said, laughing.

"Yes, the old adage that 'if you give an Englishman a good dinner, then nothing can harm him,' holds good the world over," said Col. Haynes.

"Here we are at St. Clair's; you are the proper one to invite them, I think," said Stella to me.

Away I went, like a school boy on a holiday, nearly falling over the shaggy little pug, that came barking at my feet. I rang the door bell and Miss Carruth came herself to answer the call. I had known my errand and found that four would join us.

At O'Rork's we found three. So we were to have quite a party. When we returned Sir Wren's, Annie came out to the steps to meet us, evidently in high glee.

"What mischief have you been about now? You all look so naughty!"

"A picnic!" cried Myrtle, eager to tell the news.

"The St. Clair's and O'Rork's will join us," said Stella, as we entered the hall.

Sir Wren entered into the pleasure with the young people and declared he was going too. When the company had gathered, we all started for the lake. The St. Clair girls were fine looking, sensible and full of life. George, their brother, was just budding into manhood, and was preparing for admission to the bar. Nellie O'Rork was a lively brunette, saucy and ready for mischief. Johnny was the wit of the party, making us laugh at his original witticisms in spite of ourselves. The young lady who was visiting the O'Rork's was a fashionable belle and a languid beauty.

When we arrived at the lake we left our carriages in the care of the drivers, giving orders for our provisions and implements of pleasure to be brought to the Turk's cottage in about an hour. We entered the yacht, cruised about a while to enjoy the scenery, then landed at the cottage. There we separated into groups as best suited us, and began to ramble over the beautiful grounds.

I was very much amused to see the way the Colonel and Johnny O'Rork manœuvered to gain Annie for a companion in their walks. But Annie was ready for mischief, and putting her arms about Stella's waist she led the way to the old abbey that had been a ruin so long that the ivy had mantled its broken walls and made them an object of beauty, and the tall yew tree in front shaded it from the sun.

"What a delightful place this must have been! Such a quiet retreat from everything that could vex or annoy!" said Annie, with half serious and half comic expression.

"Just think," said Nellie O'Rork, "here once stood a grand old cathedral with holy men and women reverently kneeling before their sacred shrines; but now the solemn eyed owl and web-winged bat hold their nightly revelries here and conduct the service."

"Just see," said Stella, "how nature has covered these brown and broken walls and windows with twining vines whose tiny rootlets creep and cling among the crevices from nave to transept."

"Nature always loves the beautiful and hastens with her offerings to cover all things repulsive or disagreeable," said the Colonel, as we stood looking at the old ruins.

From the abby we walked through the cloister, whose broken pavements seemed still to echo the tread of ancient friars, telling o'er their beads and mingling with their prayers the loves of their early days.

Some of us climbed the broken stairway to gain a more general view of the wreck time was making of this grand creation of the middle ages.

"Through all the ruin, from chapel walls to oriel windows there come voices reaching downward from the misty past, saying to us: 'You, too, must vanish into dust!'" said Stella, as though echoing some long forgotten thought of her childhood.

Back, down the winding stairs we went, feeling the solemnity of the sacred place in spite of our mirth. No one spoke until we stood beneath the old yew tree, through whose foliage the golden sunshine was dancing in merry glee upon the broken walls.

"There, I can breathe again!" exclaimed Johnny O'Rork. "I'm glad the sunshine can be merry in that ghostly old place.

We passed out through the [illegible] ways, winding among the evergreens and bushes, to see the Turk's waterfall. As we sported out and in, around the trees and rocks, I became separated. I was busy keeping Stella and [illegible] from the fallen [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]