Carolyn *of the* Corners

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CAROLYN MAY LEARNS SOME DISQUIETING NEWS FROM CHET GORMLEY.

Synopsis.—Her father and mother reported lost at sea when the Dunraven, on which they had sailed for Europe, was rammed by a German liner, Carolyn Corners is sent from New York to her bachelor uncle, Joseph Stagg, at the Corners, a village given her by her uncle as his only inheritance. Carolyn is now the ward by the executor of Aunty Rose. Uncle Joe's housekeeper. Carolyn is very unhappy in her former home and in her loneliness has been left practically penniless and continued to his care as guardian. Carolyn learns of the circumstances of her uncle's death and his quarrel-resentment. Amanda Parlow, and the cause of the bitterness between the two families. Grace, the youngest daughter of Amanda Parlow, and the town companion of the lonesome girl, is in distress with Uncle Joe, who threatens to dispose of him, but Prince becomes a friend and wins the approval of the Corners by routing a tramp in the act of robbing the schoolhouse. The following Sunday, while Carolyn and her uncle, accompanied by Prince, are taking a walk in the woods they encounter Amanda Parlow. Prince kills a snake aimed at Amanda, and Stagg and Amanda speak to each other for the first time in years.

CHAPTER VIII.

Chet Gormley Tells Some News.

It was time she came in sight of the Parlow place on Monday afternoon, she and Prince, that Carolyn May bethought her of the very last person in the world whom she'd like to see upon the monotonous question of the week's washing.

Who could be more interested in the happiness of the future Mrs. Chet Parlow himself?

The little girl had been going to call on Mrs. Amanda. Aunty Rose had said she might and Amanda herself had invited her specially.

But the thought of reliving the old carpenter into her confidence and offering him that free discourse on Chet Parlow was busy on some piece of work in the barn, he would tender to the little girl when she came to the door of the shop and say:

"Are you very busy, Mr. Parlow?" she'd ask him after a wistful look into the barn?

"My hands be, Carlyn May," said the carpenter in his dry voice.

"Oh!"

"But I kin listen to ye—and I kin talk."

"Oh, thank you very much, sir! Now about what happened yesterday?"

"Eh?" he queried, cocking his head. "Them anything ever happen on Sunday?"

"Something did on this Sunday," cried the little girl. "Didn't you hear about the snake?"

"Fur I ain't been outen!"

And then little Carolyn May remembered how Aunty Rose and Mrs. Amanda had stopped working for the day.

"Humph!" was his grunted comment at the end of it.

"Don't you think that was real exciting?" asked Carolyn May, "I'm just sure Aunty Rose and Mrs. Amanda Parlow are going to be friends together. I'm very glad of that."