A Romance of Embroidery

BY ANNA SHEILDS. "Come, now, be good-natured, and draw me some lovely, lovely patterns!" Hugh Milman looked down from his lordly height of six feet two upon the aliminutive girl who lifted to him a riant, saucy face, full of dimples and brightness. Blue eyes, darkblue, but full of light and animation; rippling, curling, altogether rebellious auburn hair, in the fashionable tangle; a baby mouth, full of white, pearly teeth; pretty features, and a pure complexion with rose-leaf tints, made a face to win an artist's admiration. Hugh, being an artist, ad-

contemptuously: "Patterns! Do you think I can waste my time drawing nonsense for

He liked to see her put up her lips to "You are very rude," she said, flush-"My work is as much value to me as yours is to you. But I can draw

red!" Then, before he could offer terms Treace, she was gone, darting through the low French window with a quick motion habitual to her. She was one of the few who could be quick, even abrupt, in movement and speech, yet

never ungraceful or rude. Hugh looked after her with laughing "What a child she is," he thought,

"in spite of her hard, hard life, and her nineteen years. I will draw her some patterns to-day, though she draws much better ones herself. My genius does not lie in the line of art embroidery.'

cess of formation, Minna Homer, for body, until they quarreled, as far about Mrs. Milman's rose garden, his mother's guest. gathering only the choicest treasures of bud and blossom.

Mrs. Milman's garden had been a paradise to the girl since she was a todaling baby, who grasped the strong fingers of ten-year old Hugh, and was made free of the butter-cups and daisies on the lawn. As she grew older, and her life burdens grew heavier, the the cottage before the old gentleman garden became a rest and recreation. was six hours in the grave. She's a Her father, the drawing master of the brazen piece, whether you like my saythe pupil knew all this master could engaged to her since you was a boy, London, Paris, Rome and Vienna, make love to you as if you was a mar-

with little Minna. extistic in the full sense of the word.

It was not six months before these ship of childish days, teasing each other, the agitated face of the young man, sympathizing fully with each other, "vou fetch her." often gravely talking heart to heart, often chaffing in surface nonsense, and yet never giving the impression to others of a flirtation even in the mildest

On the evening of the day when Minna gathered roses for a new design Minna was still supporting herself as she had done for years; so Hugh sought sented himself at the cottage with a roll out all the emporiums for her dainty Carriage Trimming Neatly

of patterns.

"Ungrateful child!"

stance, are so closely grouped that they cannot be embroidered? Now, I want a design for a table cover, and this would do if you had spread it out into a border, with four corner groups." "I see. Have you some paper?"

"Plenty. And my colors are on the

Hugh obediently adopting suggestions; Minna delightedly seeing her ideas elaborated and improved. The grand success of the evening was a border of grasses, field daisies and butterflies, irregular in design, excepting in so far as it was the same width all round, and the corners the same size.

"It is too lovely!" said Minna. "One will not tire of working or seeing a repetition of the same thing over and over. I am so much obliged to you, Hugh."

After this there were many honrs spent at the studio, or in Mrs. Milman's drawing-room, in designing and draw- border ever had grasses, butterflies, and ing patterns for Minna's work, until she declared she could not use them all in years of work, and would be confused by her wealth of choice. Mrs. Milman looked on smilingly.

She was very fond of Minna, and many a dainty dish found its way from the great house to the invalid in the little said its gratifled possessor; "it is some cottage. Mr. Homer was not so well of my niece's work. She embroiders pleased. His disease had affected his beautifully." mind just far enough to make him excessively irritable and exacting. He fretted if Minna left him for an hour, and it was only when he fell into deep sleep, as he did often, that Minna, if she had no pressing work, could steal away for an hour, sure that Hannah, her servant, would call her if her father wakened.

It was a sad, over-tasked life for one so young, for it requires a great deal of embroidery and water-color work to needed to help lift and nurse the invalid, as well as for household duties, that to better advantage.

Still, she was happy, always cheery and bright until Ella Milman came to Asherville to visit her Aunt Martha, and to further an old family hope that she and Hugh would one day marry each other. There was some question of property that made it desirable to little one? unite the family fortunes in this way; but there was no engagement as yet .-Somehow Hugh did not fancy his cousin Ella. She was handsome, in a striking style, a brunette with glowing color and big black eyes. But she offended Hugh's artistic sense, and made his studio a place of torment to him, till, driven to desperation by her persistent courting, he pleaded urgent never rebelled, as it is a certainty that business in New York and ignominious- his wife has not applied for a divorce. ly fled, to join a party who were going that there was never anything half so

mail communication, unless they rode twenty-miles on horseback for letters, and being young and careless, they

Zaw.

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one in the past, who have committed trespasses thereon by cutting trees and doing other damage. All such persons will hereafter be dealt with an-

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made but few such excursions. Thus it happened that when Hugh returned to the post-office town, the letter from his mother which he found was three weeks old. After dwelling on various family matters, Mrs. Milman wrote: Derby, N. B. May 10th, '81.

"You will be pained, I know, to hear bad news of our little Minna.' Here the reader of the letter becam conscious of a suffocating throbbing his heart, while his eyes grew dim. It was a moment or two before he could read the following sentences:

mired. But, being also a man, he said, "Old Mr. Homer died suddenly five days ago, and after the funeral Minna left her home, without giving any clew to her whereabouts. She left a note full of touching gratitude for me, but made no mention of you in it. She took the New York train, and you may remember her father rented the cottage furnished, so that her trunk held all her possessions.

Patterns myself, since you are ill-natuknow how hopeless a task it is search for any one in New York, but oh! Hugh, dear, find her if you can! "Find her! If she is above ground will find her!" Hugh thought, folding the letter. He knew in this terrible blow what he had not before suspected, that Minna Homer was the Notary Public, Conveyancer, &c., one woman in the world to him. their pleasant intercourse she seemed to him like a dear little sister, a pet, a plaything. Losing her, he knew that he loved her with all his great loval

He went as fast as steam could carry him to Asheville. His mother could tell him no more than she had already written. Ella was sulky and taunted While this good resolution was in pro- him with the interest he felt in a nowhose benefit it was made, was flitting gentleman could quarrel with a lady,

But one morning Hugh met Hannah. In answer to his eager questioning she

"Well, Mr. Hugh, if you will hear it, the poor dear was druv away." "How? Who could drive her

"Well, sir, it was Miss Ella come to Asheville Academy, had been Hugh's | ing it or not. She as much as told first instructor in the art which became | Miss Minna she was trying to eatch you his life work. It was not long before for a husband, and said you had been teach him, and studied in New York, and it was as bad of Miss Minna to always keeping up a correspondence ried man. I can't tell you all, but Miss Minna was as white and quiet as He left her a child of ten years old, if she was forty-years old, and she wearing long curls and short skirts; he told Miss Ella she would not be insulted returned in seven years to find her a in her own house. You'd never a' sus winsome maiden, supporting her para- picioned she felt anything but mad, till lyzed father by the pretty water color | Miss Ella was gone. Then she broke vanels, plates, or other fancies of down, poor dear, and-well, I'm not fashion, or by embroidery that was going to tell you what she said, but she just left Asheville, and she'll never come back, Mr. Hugh, unless "-and two drifted back into the good fellow- here the old woman looked keenly into

> "Tell me where she is, and if she will come, Hannah, I'll bring her back. "Honest and true, sir, I don't know. She is somewhere in New York, and I can't tell you no more, upon my honor.' Back to New York, to commence a weary, restless search. Probably

work, fiinding no trace of her. He neglected his work, his friends "They are lovely, lovely!" Minna all that had made his life pleasant, and cried; "but-oh, dear me -not of any grew pale and haggard, while month after month rolled by till two years were over, and Minna still missing. In that time, however, Hugh, never reconciled "Indeed, I am not ungrateful, Hugh; to his loss, still let it influence his whole but don't you see these flowers, for in- life less and took up his old pursuits

one by one. He had, however, shunned society until an old friend urged him to call apon a lady just returned from abroad. "You have turned a regular woman- RESERVE FUND, hater, I know," his friend said, laughingly; "but I do want you to see Miss

Carpenter. She has a face for an artist | MONTREAL, to rave over. So together they planned the patterns, replied. "My raving days are over," Hugh replied. "Who is Miss Carpenter?" "You remember Mrs. Delancey Car- Sterling Exchange Bought and Sold.

"But she has no children." "No; this is a niece. Mrs Carpenter, it appears, had some quarrel with her brother, Mr.-Mr.-I've forgotten his name—and they did not speak for years But when the brother died he sent his child to her aunt, and-bless you—the

old lady received her with open arms formally adopted her, gave her her own name, and carried her, off to Europe. Come, I'm going up there now.' R ther reluctantly Hugh dressed himself in visiting attire, and accompanied his lively friend. But in the drawingroom his eyes suddenly riveted themselves upon the cover of the centre table. That border! Surely no other

field daisies grouped so precisely as those over which he had worked so faithfully under Minna's laughing directions.

He could scarcely wait for civilities before he asked: "Pray tell me, Mrs Carpenter, who

embroidered your beautiful table-"Every one notices that table-cover,"

"Did she design it?" " No, though she does design beautifully. That was designed by an artist friend, she told me. Ah, here she is." Found at last! But Hugh scarcely knew how to greet the dignified, quiet little lady who met him with composure, and as if they had parted yesterday.

How could he guess that his friend had half promised to bring him when he called, and that to Minna the meeting SUGAR, FRUIT, ONIONS, &c.

He felt that she avoided him when once again he entered society, and was support three people, and Hannah was present wherever there was a chance of

But by persistence he found his opportunity at last, meeting her alone upon the sea shore of a summer watering

45 Bels. EXTRA C. SUGAR 30 do Granulated do.;
Boxes ORANGES; would have taken time Minna could use the sea shore of a summer watering place. She could not escape until she

"Then you were not engaged to your cousin?" she said, looking once more like his Minna of old, blushing, smiling, charming.

"Never! I would as soon marry a Billingsgate fish-woman! I love you, you only, Minna. Can you love me, All the old sauciness flashed up from

the blue eyes lifted to his face. "I'll try!" was the answer. "It will be difficult, of course; but I really want some more patterns, awfully!"
"You horrible little witch? Do you intend to keep me drawing patterns all

"Certainly! When you become erbellious I shall apply for a divorce." It is to be presumed that Hugh has to camp out, sketch and shoot in Vir- lovely in needlework as Mrs. Milman's ginia. They were out of the reach of artistic embroidery.

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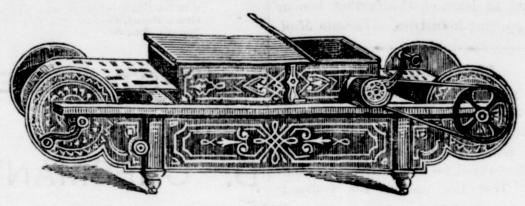
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