family by ringing, and asked to speak to Minnie privately
Minnie took her into her own room, where she related the
circumstance in a few hurried words.

As soon as she had taken in the meaning of Mabel’s words she ran off without uttering a word, to beg her father’s per-
mission to undertake this errand of mercy. He was very
reluctant, naturally, but at last yielded, on condition that
she could get one of her brothers to accompany her.

They were all in the parlour, from which apartment the
sounds of their laughter and merriment proceeded, as Minnie
opened the door rather hesitatingly, and asked Charlie to
come out and speak to her a moment.

"Why can’t you come in here and speak to me?" He
asked, "I feel so comfortable, I don’t care about moving."

"Oh, do come quickly!" entreated Minnie. "You don’t
know what may be the consequence of a minute’s delay."

Charlie rose, a good deal surprised, and the others en-
quired rather anxiously if there was anything wrong, she
looked so terribly in earnest.

She hastily assured them that it was nothing wrong at
home, and drawing Charlie into the hall, told him what she
wished to do, and begged him to accompany her, forgetting
in her eagerness the dread of his ridicule, which at any other
time would have overpowered her.

"Nonsense," he said when he had heard her out, "I really
thought you had more common sense, Minnie, than to bother
your head with things of that description. Are there not
enough fanatics paid for doing these things? The girl