

Poetry. TOGETHER. We took a long forsaken road, Green maples being over; Between the deep sunk cut ruts, rowed A narrow, grassy border, gay With shepherds' purses and straw And rabbit-foot and clover.

Literature. TEMPTATION: OR The Lady of Ashurst. CHAPTER XXXIV. MRS. ASHLEY AT "THE OAKS."

On the following day the visit to the Oaks was made; it was a fine old place, surrounded by the noble trees from which it took its name.

Mr. Welby was a wealthy planter, and lived as a few old Maryland families still did at that day—with open house and open hand welcoming even the chance wayfarer with that cordial hospitality which gives from its abundance as freely as it is given.

Both Mr. Welby and his wife were well-bred, good-natured people, ready to promote the enjoyment of others, and never more pleased than when their capacious mansion was filled with guests.

The house was the centre of gaiety in the neighborhood, and a large family of sons and daughters successively appearing on the stage of life, kept up a round of festivities of which the elders seemed to grow weary no more than the youngest guest they received.

Luckily for Mr. Welby his fortune was sufficient to stand the drain thus constantly made upon it, for his management was good and his income large.

Two sons and as many daughters were already married, and settled near their parents; another son was grown, and the third daughter was to make her debut this summer, while two younger girls were to remain at home under the care of their governess.

admitted prudent Mrs. Welby, "but the impression I received was that Bessie was unwilling to ratify the contract, and Mr. Wentworth refused to insist on it when he found how unhappy it made her. Perhaps the change in the poor child may be traced to her dread of Frank's return."

Mrs. Ashley rapidly changed color as she listened, but she readily replied: "I do not believe that Bessie has the slightest dread of such a thing. She and Frank are the best of friends, and they are really very fond of each other. The unwillingness to ratify the contract, in my opinion, more girlish caprice, arising from her ignorance of life. A few months hence she will understand herself better, and yield gracefully to the destiny which has been laid for her."

Mrs. Welby looked grave, but she said nothing in reply, and Mrs. Ashley went on with nervous haste: "I bring Bessie to you, you will have opportunities of learning the true value of wealth; she will comprehend the prestige it gives; and I am sure when she once understands how important an element of happiness money is, she will not consent to relinquish her grandfather's estate because she has not formed a romantic attachment for her destined husband. If she goes with you, my dear Mrs. Welby, I hope that you will constantly keep in mind her peculiar position, and guard her as much as possible from the dangers you dread for her, Mrs. Ashley, and I must say that the tender maternal interest you share for this motherless girl, is highly creditable to you."

"I understand your reluctance, Mrs. Ashley, and respect it. You may feel as if she were my own daughter, and I will endeavor to save her from every temptation to sever from her allegiance to Frank. Thank you for the confidence you have reposed in me, and I will prove to you that I do deserve it."

"We understand each other now, and I better understand the dear Bessie away from me. When do you think of leaving?" "In four days from this time. It is short notice for Bessie, but we shall stop a week in the city, and she can have her wardrobe for the summer campaign supplied there."

"Of course; that will be the best arrangement, and she will not need a traveling dress made here, that can soon be done." "I cannot tell you how happy I am that you have consented to let the dear girl accompany us, and here comes Mr. Welby to tell you the same. Mrs. Ashley, my dear, has come over to see about Bessie—and we have arranged that it is to go North with us."

"Upon my word, that is good news indeed," said Mr. Welby, who was even fatter and more good-natured in appearance than his wife. "We shall be the gainers by that arrangement, and you could not have come upon a more agreeable errand Mrs. Ashley."

"I am glad to see that Bessie is so great a favorite with you all, and I assure you that there are few with whom I should be so willing to trust her as yourself and Mrs. Welby. You know how to deal with children, and here comes Mr. Welby's own daughters have made more prudent than I can have no misgivings as to my darling, especially as I have fully explained her position to your wife."

"If my children have made good matches, the credit is entirely due to themselves," Mrs. Ashley replied, "we never thought of matrimony in any way. I am sure it is wrong to do so. Mother and I had a nice time of it before our marriage with the senseless turmoil made by her family because of her own doing."

"For once in her life the speaker was thrown into confusion, and she was not aware of what she had said till the expression of astonishment on the faces before her warned her of her error.

a girl, and his blond hair hung in soft waves around a brow as smooth and innocent as his sister's. Mrs. Ashley almost smiled as she thought how lately she had questioned Bessie as to the possibility of her falling in love with this miniature specimen of humanity.

Rufus Welby greeted Mrs. Ashley with great effusiveness and then said: "I have just seen the girls, Mrs. Ashley, and I have come to thank you for permitting Miss Bessie to accompany us on our tour. It will be rendered doubly delightful by your presence, and I am only sorry that you are not to be with us. I shall have a fine time with two such pretty girls as Kate and Miss Ashley to escort everywhere."

With her sweetest smile Mrs. Ashley replied: "I make over Bessie to you, Mr. Welby. Of course you will find her better than your sister; but it is my wish that you shall constitute yourself Miss Ashley's constant attendant."

Young Welby bowed low and began to express his acknowledgments for such unexpected favor, when his mother cut him short by saying: "Don't flatter yourself, my red-haired daughter, Mrs. Ashley wishes you to make an impression on the heart of our young friend. She only thinks you are a safe attendant for our pretty betrothed, and you are too much Frank Wentworth's friend to desert him in any emergency."

Rufus elevated his eyebrows and shrugged his shoulders at this explanation, but he gracefully said: "I am flattered, at any rate, Mrs. Ashley, that you should have so much confidence in me, and I mean to do my best to deserve it. But girls will flirt a little, but I can't engage to make Bessie hate me by interfering too much with her amusements."

"Oh, I wish that to your own discretion, I could leave you going helter-skelter to enjoy as much of the fun and frolic as your parent sees fit. You will only step in, Mr. Rufus, when things begin to wear a serious aspect, and save her from the consequences of her own folly, and I have no objection to your being with her on this subject with your father and mother, and they understand my motives for guarding Bessie from every chance of breaking the betroth."

"It is not that I care to guard her against, only to prevent her from admiring any other one too much in her turn. Bessie is romantic, and she is inclined to accept the happiness which has been thrown at her feet. Like many other young girls, she believes that difficult matters are romantic, and she will get over such notions when she gains a little more experience, and all that is necessary now is to guard her till her judgment has ripened a little."

"I am really highly flattered, Mrs. Ashley, that you should appoint me the guardian of this pretty creature. I am sure I cannot boast of much experience, but with me and pa to back me, I dare say I shall come out with credit to myself—that is, if Bessie is not provoked into cutting my acquaintance."

"At that moment the bell for luncheon sounded, the girls came in together, and Mrs. Welby with old-fashioned politeness, understood the fact that Ashley to conduct her into the next room."

The party gathered around a daintily spread table, and gaily discussed plans and made arrangements for the proposed tour. They at length separated with a promise from Mrs. Ashley to take Bessie to the railroad station on the following Tuesday in time to join her friends before they set out on the travel.

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"Dead!" exclaimed a patriotic Irishman, "but it is a ripe water-melon that should be the emblem of Ireland. It always has the green above the red."

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"Little boy, do you understand what is meant by energy and enterprise?" "No, pa, I don't think I do." "Well, I will tell you. One of the richest men I came here without a shirt on his back, and now he has got millions." "Millions! How many does he put on at a time, pa?"

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY '85 Summer Arrangement '85 On and after MONDAY, June 1st, 1885, the Trains of this Railway will run daily, (Sunday excepted) as follows: Trains will leave St. John: Day Express, 7.25 a.m. Accommodation, 11.00 a.m. Express for Sussex, 4.35 p.m. Express for Halifax & Quebec, 10.15 p.m. A Pullman Car runs daily on the 10.15 p.m. Train to Halifax.

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