

Augusta, who, as a *decent* belle, was in favor of her step-dad, here impatiently...

through it like a flash, and I think the don was rather taken aback when I went up to him in half an hour, and recited the whole of it without a falter...

"I say, gov'nor, Frank wants me to say something to you, so I suppose I must. If I say anything I'll tell you the truth, and that is, that I'm precious glad to get out of this old poky house, and away from such a stupid noddle as you've got to be. I'm much obliged to you for telling me to go with Frank, who seems to know his own mind."

This conviction was added the delight of having a companion near her own age, who could understand and sympathize with her. They did not suspect how rapidly they were progressing toward a first and ardent love, though each one treasured every word and every expression of the other in the hours of solitary reverie that followed their partings.

On Sunday they attended service in the cathedral, and listened to the fine music with hearts more deeply attuned to tenderness than ever in their lives before. Wentworth lived by invitation with his uncle, leaving Maitland to the care of his new Mentor.

Titmouse.

TEMPTATION:

OR

The Lady of Ashurst.

CHAPTER XXIX.

DOMESTIC SCENES.

After a single glance at the handsome stranger, Evelyn retreated from the door, cautiously closing it behind her. She found Mrs. Ashley crying bitterly, and she used all her art to soothe and console her for the harsh and unfeeling language her husband had used to her.

"Pray resume your seat, Mr. Wentworth, and let us hear to what we are indebted for the pleasure of seeing you here."

They all sat down; but as Frank was about to speak Ashley interrupted him; and said to his wife: "You and I must prepare mourning, for Judge Ashley is dead. I cannot say that we are maternally benefited by his decease, for he has left me very little more than the house on which we have so long vegetated, but that much outward respect must be paid to his memory. I have made up my mind to return to the United States as soon as my health is sufficiently restored to enable me to do so, and all you and I have to do at present is to get ready to go with me to Baden in a few more days."

After making this brief summary he sank back, and cast his bloodshot eyes from one to another of the group, as if to observe the effect they produced. Evelyn clasped her hands in joyful surprise, but Augusta stared at her husband in mute amazement, which seemed greatly to enjoy. He slowly rubbed his hands together, as if he were very happy in the change. "What do you think of that, Mrs. Ashley?"

Recovering the power of speech, she said: "I should be glad to think it possible for us to go back home, but I am afraid it is not."

"Nothing is impossible to the brave and daring heart, Mrs. Ashley, as I shall have the honor to prove to you very shortly. It is my intention to return to Maryland in the possession of Arden Place, and lead a regular and respectable life as long as I can."

The mocking spirit which would break forth under every circumstance dictated the conclusion of his reply, and the poor wife was about to say: "I am afraid that would not be very long," when Evelyn saved her from such a remark by saying: "Oh how charming! I shall see my own mother's home, shall make the acquaintance of my sister. Oh, mamma, we shall be very very happy in the change. I am sure we shall!"

Frank looked at the sparkling face of the enthusiastic girl, so brilliant with animation, so radiant with beauty which possessed a deep charm for him, and he listened to the fresh young voice with a sensation of pleasure entirely new to him.

Dear! he loved Bessie, she had never moved him as this young stranger did, in the first hour of their meeting, and he felt that the dark beauty which possessed a deep charm for him, and he listened to the fresh young voice with a sensation of pleasure entirely new to him.

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