

Poetry.

Near the Dawn.

When life's troubles gather darkly
Round the path we follow here,
When no hope the sad heart lightens—
No voice speaks a word of cheer—
Then the thought the shadow scatters,
Giving us a cheering ray—
When the night appears the darkest,
Morning is not far away.

When adversity surrounds us,
And our sunshine friends pass by,
And the dreams so fondly cherished
With our scattered treasures lie;
Then amid such gloomy seasons
This sweet thought can yet be drawn,
When the darkest hour is present
It is always near the dawn.

When the spirit flutters languid
On the confines of this life,
Parting from all joyful memories
And from every scene of strife,
Though the scene is sad and gloomy,
And the body shrinks in fear,
These dark hours will soon be vanished,
And the glorious morn will be here.

Pain cannot affect us always,
Brighter days will soon be here;
Sorrow may oppress us often,
Yet a happier time is near;
All along our daily journey
This reflection lights our way:
Nature's darkest hour is always
Just before the dawn of day.

Literature.

TEMPTATION:

OR

The Lady of Ashurst.

CHAPTER XXIV.—CONTINUED.

After her interview with the judge, in regard to Frank's visit to Europe to look after Leon's wife and child, Mrs. Ashley sought the apartment of Bessie, to communicate to her the news of the projected bridal trip. Opposed as she was to a separation from her daughter, she hoped that the promise of a European tour would reconcile her to the speedy marriage which had been arranged for her.

She found Bessie pacing the floor of her room with cheeks flushed with weeping, and eyes in which the light of anger shone. She did not often show the fiery spirit that was within her to the beloved and respected guide of her young life, but there had been occasions on which it broke forth and swept all opposition before it.

As soon as Mrs. Ashley looked at her, she saw that, for the present, all power over Bessie was at an end. The young girl turned toward the opening door, and when she saw who had entered her room without knocking, she defiantly said:

"You took an unfair advantage of me, Minny, to carry out your own wishes. You knew that I dared not refuse my grandfather anything on which he seemed to have set his heart, for he looks so frail and that, thwarting him might kill him at once. If you had let things take their course, I could eventually have evaded this marriage, which, I tell you, it will be wrong for Frank and me to make."

Mrs. Ashley composedly asked:

"How would you evade it? By waiting till the old man is under the sod, and then violating his commands? I took no advantage of you, Bessie; do not think so harshly of me as that. You and Frank enacted that scene of love making in our sight, and the judge and I naturally thought you were in earnest. At his command, I called you to come to us, that he might make known to you how much he has your immediate union at heart. Do not blame me, my dear, for it wounds me to the heart to have you imagine, even for a moment, that I would do anything that would render you unhappy."

Her voice assumed its most touching tones, and tears stood in her expressive eyes as she turned them on the impulsive girl, and Bessie threw herself in the arms that were opened to receive her, sobbing as if her heart would break.

"Catch flies with honey, and not with vinegar," had been the word of Mrs. Ashley's life; and annoyed as she felt with the conduct of her daughter, she pressed her tenderly to her heart, and whispered:

"I came hither to console you, love; to show you all the advantages of this union, and tell you something that your grandfather has decided on, which must afford you intense pleasure."

"Nothing can do that, if I am to give up the freedom of girlhood to marry Frank. I do not wish ever to be married, and I do not think that any girl should marry under twenty. I am but eighteen, and I have lived shut up in this old country house nearly all my life. If I go out in the world, I may hereafter see some one that I shall like a great deal better than Frank. It is wicked to force us into bonds that may become a burden to us, and I did not believe that you would help me to do such a thing, Minny."

"My dear," said Mrs. Ashley, soothingly, "you are excited now, and you do not talk rationally. It is absurd to speak of Frank and yourself as if you were two children, incapable of judging as to what is good for your own welfare. In this country, earlier marriages than yours are very common, and I am inclined to believe that they are the happiest."

"This may be, if the parties love each other with all their soul and all their strength; but such is not the case with Frank and me. There is a strong bond of fraternal affection between him and myself, but the divine spirit of love has never breathed upon it. If you will force us into the path you have marked out for us, the day will come in which we shall both discover the fatal mistake we have made; we shall then loathe each other all the more for the irrevocable tie that unites us in a bond which, from that hour, will have no sanctity."

The passionate vehemence of the speaker showed Mrs. Ashley how deeply in earnest she was, but she lightly said:

"My love, your excitement has made you eloquent. I scarcely expected such a tirade on love from the lips of my little Bessie. If you are not a mature woman, it seems to me that you think and feel very much like one."

"Because this question was thrust upon me even in my childhood. I have always been assured that Frank must become my husband, and I have reflected on all the possibilities that may spring from a union based on such motives as ours will be, and the more I have thought on it, the more I have shrunk from fulfilling the contract which has been made for me."

"Why did you not express all this to your grandfather when he spoke to you this evening, Bessie?"

"You know very well why I did not. The love and reverence I cherish for grandpa has a strong element of fear in it. Somehow I have always felt as if I have no right to give him any trouble, and the most submissive obedience to his will can never repay him for what he has done for me. He demanded my consent to marry Frank, and I gave it; I shall redeem my promise, much as I resent the manner in which it was wrung from me."

A slight shiver passed over Mrs. Ashley, and she changed color, but she calmly replied:

"That will suffice, Bessie; but why you should imagine that you have no claim here is very strange. But for the efforts made by me to restore Frank to his grandfather's favor, you would have been sole heiress of Ashurst."

"I wish to Heaven you had never done so, Minny; for I could have done justice to Frank after my grandfather's death, and avoided making myself miserable by marrying him."

"My dear, you will smile at the recollection of all this romantic nonsense when you are a little older. Let us discuss your sentimental wrongs just now, for I have something more important to communicate to you."

Bessie sank resignedly into a chair, and said:

"I am ready to listen; I suppose it is some message from grandfather."

"Yes; I came hither from Judge Ashley to inform you that he has become necessary for Frank to visit Europe immediately, and you are to be the companion of his voyage. Will not the prospect reconcile you to your speedy marriage?"

"The young girl's face brightened a little, but she said to herself:

"If anything could do so, the promise of a visit to Europe would have that effect; but from the depths of my nature I possess a cry that I will never give up the truth, and all her machinations about it only end in making her child so miserable that the wealth which had been so dearly purchased could never give the sombre darkness of the fate to which she was so eager to consign her."

She presently spoke in a tone so altered that Bessie regarded her with surprise and contrition.

"My dear child, if it is not too late to recede, I will use my influence with the judge to have the marriage postponed at least till after Frank's return. He is really so bitterly opposed to giving him your hand, I—yes—I will use all the power I possess over my husband to induce him to consent to my going with you."

"You both free to accept or reject each other, as you may desire."

Bessie impulsively threw herself at her mother's feet, and said:

"My best friend! my more than mother, if you will indeed do this, I will be eternally grateful. We shall both owe you such a debt that we can never repay. Save me from this accursed fate, and I promise in the future to be guided by you in the choice I may make; and I pledge myself to marry no other than Frank without your consent."

Mrs. Ashley raised her in her arms, and pressing her to her heart in deep emotion, she said:

"I will do my best, my darling, and you need have no fears for the result. But I do trust that when you find you are not compelled to take Frank, your caprices will end, and you will see that he is the best choice you can possibly make. Promise me that you will use every effort to overcome your fantastic repugnance to the union your grandfather has so much desired, and I pledge you my word to do all I can toward having the provisions of the will changed."

Bessie's face was radiant; all the clouds had rolled away as if by magic, and she threw her arms around Mrs. Ashley, as she impulsively said:

"Only save me now, Minny, my two years hence I may willingly give my hand to Frank. Only give me time to understand myself—to make up my mind that we can be happy together, and I ask no more."

At that moment a knock was heard upon the door, and Mrs. Ashley extricated herself from the embrace of Bessie as she said:

"I firmly believe that your decision will ultimately be all that I can wish, or I should not willingly undertake what I have promised; but do not know how much depends on your union with Frank, nor can I now enlighten you. Good night, love; compose yourself, and get to sleep as soon as possible. This is a summons from the judge, I know."

She fondly kissed the being to whom she had just conceded the overthrow of that which she had schemed to attain through so many years; but Mrs. Ashley believed that she had, in that hour, established over Bessie a power which would hereafter enable her to bend her to her will and make her the willing wife of Frank Wentworth.

CHAPTER XXV.

On the following morning Frank arose at an early hour to commence his preparations for the expected journey; but he soon sat down to his writing, and to think that this was his wedding day, and he ought to be wrapped in blissful thoughts of his fair fiancée; but in spite of all his efforts, they were a common place and dull enough. He muttered:

"I am a stupid fellow, and not worthy of such a bright little will-o'-the-wisp as Bessie, or I would feel more elated at the prospect of claiming her for my own before another day is gone. I wonder if she is right, and that she will both yet repent me for not doing her duty, and that she will be a fool to give up my share of this large property sooner than accept such a little girl for my wife."

"But what can we do? If either one refuses the other, it seems that the governor will not out of that one with a mere pitance. I believe that I like Bessie well enough to take her without a sou for my dowry; well—since I feel sure on that point, I would be a fool to give up my share of this large property sooner than accept such a little girl for my wife."

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A slight shiver passed over Mrs. Ashley, and she changed color, but she calmly replied:

Mrs. Ashley regarded him searchingly as she thus spoke, and after a brief pause Frank honestly said:

"That will be the best for both of us, perhaps. I have no objection to Bessie, but somehow it seems to me that in myself there is something lacking. She may have more heart wisdom than I have, and if she insists on putting off the wedding, I shall not be offended. For a year or two things can go on as they always have, and can cultivate such an affection for each other as will make us happy as husband and wife."

Mrs. Ashley smiled at this prosaic view of the grand passion, but she presently said in a most impressive tone:

"One thing must be understood both by yourself and Bessie; and that is, that you are bound by your pledges to each other so sacredly that the only beneficent way for either to get out of the wedding is by your mutual consent. You must not suffer your heart to wander from your betrothed, Frank, and I promise you to watch over your interests in your absence."

"There is little fear that I shall prove inconstant, Minny. I love Bessie better than any one in the world, and there is little danger that I shall ever be attracted to any other woman. I shall esteem myself a lucky fellow, to win so charming a creature for my wife."

"She is so lovely, Frank, and with her hand you obtain wealth, without it, you will have nothing. I know that you are not mercenary, but I tell you for every man to have an eye to his interests. A word to the wise is sufficient, you know, and now I must hurry through my breakfast, and go up to the judge. I have before me the task of persuading him to let me go with you, and I must do it alone. It may be difficult, but I shall accomplish it."

Frank laughed.

"Of course you will, Minny, for grandpa only sees with your eyes, and judges with your judgment. It is lucky for him that the weakness of his old age has such a guide as you are to him."

She looked keenly at Wentworth, to see if he was perfectly in earnest, but seeing no sinister meaning on the candid brow and honest face of her betrothed, she proceeded to eat her breakfast in quiet content, congratulating herself that she had prevented a meeting between Leon Ashley and her daughter, yet had not lost her power before she knew that they implicitly trusted her, and upon that trust the fabric she meant to rear should be erected.

As she arose from the table, a servant rushed into the room quite breathless, after a pause to gain the power of speech, he exclaimed:

"Please, morn, you are wanted in master's room immediately. What's he—oh, Lord! I'm feared to say he is!"

Mrs. Ashley hurriedly heard her maid's words, for the scared face of the negro told her that something of importance had happened. She hastened from the room, and fled along the hall to the chamber in which her daughter lay. The door was open and Jupiter and the black nurse stood beside the bed.

They stepped aside as their mistress entered, and she saw that her worst fears were verified. The worn face of the old man lay upon the pillows, calm and peaceful as that of a child, but it was fixed and stony as that of a marble image, and Mrs. Ashley knew that it was death on which she looked.

The sleep in which she had left him had evidently insided into that peaceful slumber which finally seals the senses of the children of earth, snatching them from the cares of life, and giving to the vision closed upon this world the brightness of a fairer land.

Mrs. Ashley threw herself beside him with a great cry, but she shuddered and recoiled as her bowed face came in contact with the hand which had so often caressed her, for it was rapidly chilling into the rigidity of death.

Frank had quickly followed her, and he raised her in his arms as he said, in a choked voice:

"This is no place for you, Minny; let me take you away while the last duties are performed for the good man who is gone. He has ended his honored career at a ripe old age, and you must not be inconsolable."

She was so glibly submitted to be taken away, though her heart was filled with a tumult of regret for Judge Ashley's death. She must have felt it any time, for he had made her life prosper, and he had spared no efforts to afford her such happiness as their disordered union promised, but at this crisis, it was a calamity.

Leon Ashley, with his dissipated habits, his reckless disregard of his duties, would not be sure to return to his native land so soon as he heard of his father's death. He would assume the control of Bessie's fate, and claim her a deeper interest than she dared set forth.

In deep perturbation, Mrs. Ashley locked herself up alone, to mourn the bereavement she and her husband had determined on the best course of action to protect herself against the encroachments Judge Ashley's unprincipled son would be sure to attempt.

She dreaded a meeting between herself and Bessie, lest the sure instinct of nature should assure both that the tie supposed to exist between them was baseless as a spider's web. She dreaded to see Bessie's claim on the estate Judge Ashley had left behind him.

Luckily for Mrs. Ashley, her daughter bore no resemblance to herself, but she looked in her face the image of her young husband as she had known him in his boyhood, and she feared that Leon would not be so easily deceived as his father had been.

The mark upon Bessie's arm was still there, looking dark and natural enough, but that was the sole proof to offer to Mr. Ashley that she was his daughter. The final conclusion the restless schemer arrived at, was that the only path of safety left for herself was to unite Frank and Bessie before he set out on his European journey.

Some days must now take place before Wentworth could leave, and in the interim she would work on Bessie in such a way as to lead her to consent to her marriage with her in the seclusion of Ashurst till Frank returned, but this was all she could do to the best of her power.

Many times during that melancholy day, Bessie came to the door of the room in which she had fastened herself, and begged for admittance, but Mrs. Ashley refused to let her in, and the conflicting emotions of her own mind had sunk into the quiet of decided action.

On the day of the trial, numerous friends gathered in to testify their respect for the memory of the deceased, but the care of everything was left to Wentworth, for Mrs. Ashley gave no orders, nor did she take any part in the funeral cortege.

Many wondered why the grave was placed so distant from that of his son, but they had no objection to the fact, which was made, and his honest heart recoiled from laying the cold remains of his grandfather beside the sham tomb on whose tablet a lie was recorded.

The words which he had said to those who were reverently spoken, the strangers departed, and the household was left to the gloom which pervaded it till the next day, when the will was to be read.

(To be continued.)

The Russians have a proverb which says: "Before going to war, pray once; before going to sea, pray twice; before getting married, pray three times."

The man dealers in China are in possession of the richest traffic in the world. The coolies mortgage their wives and children, if they have any, for the faithful execution of their contracts abroad—a transaction perfectly legal in China.

"If you are innocent," said a lawyer to his client, an old dandy, who was charged with stealing a ham, "we ought to be able to prove an alibi."

"I don't 'spec' we kin," the darkey replied, doubtfully.

"At what time was the ham stolen?"

"Well, 'bout eleven o'clock, dey say."

"Well, where were you between eleven o'clock and midnight—in bed?"

"No, sah; I wuh hidin' de ham."

A countryman in a restaurant ordered roast lamb, and the waiter bawled to the cook:

"One lamb!"

"Great Scott! Mister," cried the countryman, "I eat't the lamb! Gimme some more oysters instead."

"One fried!" bawled the waiter.

"Well, Muthuselah's ghost! Mister, one fried oyster han't 'goin' to be enough. I want a dozen of 'em. Durn these city eatin' places!"

In stock and cheap for cash:
SUGAR, different grades, Flour, Meal, Tea, Molasses, Soda, Rice, Cakes, Spices, etc., etc. Try my office and be convinced there is nothing better in this market.
W. H. VANWART.

July 15, 1885

"Woman's rights!" exclaimed a Philadelphia man, when the subject was broached. "What more rights do they want? My wife is eternally bossing me, our daughters boss us both, and the servant-girl bosses the whole family. It's time the men were allowed some rights."

Young, old, and middle-aged, all experience the wonderful beneficial effects of Ayer's Hair Vigor. Young children suffering from sore eyes, sore ears, scald-head, or with any scrofulous or syphilitic taint, may be made healthy and strong by its use.

A well-known lawyer of this city, had agreed to go on a fishing excursion with some friends in New York, and when written to upon the subject, replied thus:

"I can't go. I have been appointed administrator of an estate, and I'm afraid if I go away the heirs may get some of the property."

A well-known Frederickian business approached a gentleman and stated that he would not refuse an invitation to take something.

"Pshaw, good whiskey is thrown away on you."

"You have got it mixed, Colonel; good whiskey is not thrown away on me, but I have thrown myself away on good whiskey."

Mrs. Snively is the wife of the Captain of the New Brunswick militia company. She attended a review not long since, at which her husband was commanding officer. Mrs. Snively laughed all the way home, and when she got home, she was asked what was the cause of her merriment, she replied:

"It was the funniest thing in the world to see my husband, who never dares open his mouth at home, ordering all those men about, and they doing just what he told them to do."

A Wise Precaution.
During the Summer and Fall people are liable to sudden attacks of bowel complaints, and with no prompt remedy or medical aid at hand, life may be in danger. Those whose experience has given them wisdom, always keep Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry at hand for prompt relief, and a Physician is seldom required.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER Absolutely Pure.

This powder never varies. A marvel of purity and softness. Purely mechanical. More economical than the ordinary kinds, and cannot be sold in competition with the multitude of low test, short weight, adulterated or impure powders. Sold only in cans. ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO. 109 West Street, NEW YORK.

'85 Spring and Summer, '85

WM. JENNINGS, MERCHANT TAILOR,

has now received his SPRING AND SUMMER stock consisting of

Cloths, Doeskins, ENGLISH, SCOTCH AND CANADIAN TWEEDS, Diagonal and Corkscrew Coatings, in Plain and Fancy Colors.

Also a beautiful assortment of SPRING and SUMMER OVERCOATINGS. Likewise Scotch and English TROUSERS in Woollens and Worsteds, making the most complete stock ever opened in the city. Please call and examine.

WM. JENNINGS, Frederickton, March 18, 1885

JAS. D. FOWLER'S Gold and Silver Watches

is the cheapest place in the city to buy

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AYER'S Hair Vigor

restores, with the gloss and freshness of youth, faded or gray hair to a natural, rich brown color, or deep black, as may be desired. By its use the lighter or red hair may be darkened, thin hair thickened, and baldness often, though not always, cured.

It checks falling of the hair, and stimulates a weak and sickly growth to vigor. It prevents and cures scurf and dandruff, and heals nearly every disease peculiar to the scalp. As a Ladies' Hair Dressing, the Vigor is unequalled. It contains neither oil nor dye, renders the hair soft, glossy, and silken in appearance, and imparts a delicate, agreeable, and lasting perfume.

MR. C. P. BROWNE, writes from Kirby, O., July 3, 1882: "Last fall my hair commenced falling out, and I was obliged to wear a wig. I used part of a bottle of Ayer's Hair Vigor, which stopped the falling of the hair, and started a new growth. I have now a full head of hair growing vigorously, and am convinced that, but for the use of your preparation I should have been entirely bald."

J. W. BOWEN, proprietor of the *McArthur (Ohio) Enquirer*, says: "AYER'S HAIR VIGOR is a most excellent preparation for the hair. I speak of it from my own experience. It cures itching of the scalp, and makes the hair grow and makes it glossy and soft. The Vigor is also a sure cure for dandruff, and every one who has used it has been benefited. It is a most valuable preparation for the hair, and I have used it for years."

MR. A. O. PRESTON, writes from Elm St., Charleston, W. Va., April 15, 1882, says: "Two years ago about two-thirds of my hair came off. It thinned very rapidly, and I was fast growing bald. On using AYER'S HAIR VIGOR the falling stopped, and a new growth commenced, and in about a month my head was completely covered with short hair. It has continued to grow, and is now as good as before it fell. I regret that I have not heard of the Vigor, but now use it occasionally as a dressing."

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