THE EARL OF DESMOND; OR O'BRIEN's COTTAGE.

AN IRISH STORY.

(Continued from our last.)

"Having now, my dearest Georgiana," said he, "communicated the tidings which distresses us both so much, I shall proceed in what I have further to propose: I would wish you to prepare yourself, with all possible speed, to accompany me to Desmond castle, where you will find such arrangements made for your reception as befits the daughter of colonel Fitzhugh.

"Oh! my dear sir," said the agitated Georgiana, "you will not, sure, separate me from Mrs. O'Brien; my more than mother;—forever let me live in obscurity, rather than experience that distressing moment—let her be of the party, and I will attend you wherever you please; but, pardon me, I cannot, must not, go without her."

"You have not sufficiently considered," my beloved Georgiana, returned lord Desmond, "the nature of the request you make; or, I am persuaded, your own good sense would have prevented your making it. I can easily comprehend, and feel for you accordingly, how severely you are hurt by the necessary steps I am now taking; and, added to that, the inconvenience you will find in travelling, so totally unused to it as you are; and, though the journey is but short, to obviate any thing might be disagreeable to you, I have hired a proper female servant, for the sole purpose of attending you, and she is now at Clonnish, ready to obey your orders. When you arrive at Desmond castle you will have your suit of apartments, with proper persons to forward your education in every branch; to which will be added such relaxations and amusements as your birth, youth, and sex admit of.

For these kind attentions Georgiana returned her most grateful thanks; and the countenances of the O'Briens cleared up, in the pleasure they felt, that now their dear child, as they generally called her, would at last be received by her family as she ought.

"Having stated these particulars," continued lord Desmond, "you will be convinced of the impropriety, and, indeed, cruelty of taking Mrs. O'Brien from her family; they who have no other to manage for them would be wretched—her husband and children would be comfortless and neglected—would think you selfish and unfeeling to deprive them of their only happiness whilst you were surrounded with servants; and even Mrs. O'Brien herself, in thinking on her family, would be miserable, and regret her having complied with your rash desire.

Georgiana, quite overcome with the idea of parting with those she so tenderly loved (for lord Desmond's arguments were sufficiently strong to convince her of her imprudence in wishing for Mrs. O'Brien), threw herself into her arms; and, hiding her face in her bosom, sobbed aloud, in which she was warmly joined by her who supported her, whose tears flowed with the greatest rapidity; whilst farmer O'Brien himself, who had been an attentive auditor and spectator of this scene, could scarcely restrain his own tears.

"I am grieved, my dear Georgianna," said lord Desmond, after a few moments pause, "to occasion you so much trouble; but you must all feel the necessity of a change taking place: but do not." continued he, with great tenderness, "grieve as though it was an eternal separation, your friends can often see you; you shall occasionally come here, and, when you find yourself settled to your satisfaction, they can come and see you, and prolong their stay as their business will permit; and probably, on my estate, I may find some situation as advantageous to O'Brien as this, and, if so, he may probably settle near you; and they will then have the happiness of seeing Miss Fitzhugh in her proper station."

The last part of this speech, from the promise it contained of a speedy meeting, had a good effect on the whole party, which, lord Desmond observing with pleasure, said, "I will now leave you to make your arrangements, and will come for you tomorrow."

"Oh! my lord, that is too soon," said Georgiana, raising her tearful eye imploringly to him; "I cannot be ready so soon,"

"No, my love," returned he, "it is almost too long, for delay will only increase this sorrow, and a longer time add force to your reluctance; I must therefore act kind, by appearing cruel, and make a resolute end of your present great uneasiness.—Expect me by twelve to-morrow, and then, I trust, you will have better prepared your mind for this very natural event."

Lord Desmond then, very affectionately embracing her, stepped into his carriage, and was in a moment out of sight.

The tender Georgiana was relieved by his absence; for, almost suffocated by the distressing sensations she had experienced during her uncle's visit, she had endeavoured to smother them, and conceal them from his observation; but the moment he was gone, she gave way to the agonies of her heart, which the account of the death of her father, and her sudden removal from those she so tenderly loved, to entire new scenes and new faces, naturally occasioned; an unaccountable dislike took root in her heart to her uncle, in defiance of all the tenderness and kindness of his manners, for which she could in no way account, except it arose from his being the messenger of such unpleasant tidings.

They now seated themselves at their humble table, and deliberated on what preparations were necessary to be made by the return of the next day; but every moment the conversation was interrupted by renewed recollections of the colonel, whose goodness, affability and generosity, had indelibly impressed the hearts of the O'Briens. In this the sympathy and sorrow of the gentle Georgiana was fully exercised, and it was a late hour before they separated.

When Georgiana retired to her apartment, the occurrences of the day deeply occupied her mind—"Alas!" said she, with a heavy sigh, "this is the last night I shall ever pass in this humble and peaceful dwelling, in which I drew my first breath; and in which, had Heaven so ordained, I could have contentedly have breathed my last.—Here where I have experienced only tenderness, respect, and attention—and where my heart has never felt one uneasy moment (except for the absence of my dear father) till this day.—To-morrow I enter on a new life—a scene of pomp and splendour opens to my view—will that be so tranquil, so happy, as what I am going to resign?—Ah! no: my heart assures me the easy hours of contest are past, and that the anxious cares of the world, its deceptions, and perplexing labyrinths will be spread before me, and I shall be lost in its intricacies—Heaven be my guide and protector, and grant that the new great friends, under whose care I am about to be placed, may as faithfully discharge their duty by me as the humble ones I quit. With this fervent prayer she endeavoured to compose her mind to rest, that she might be prepared to meet lord Desmond on the next day.

When lord Desmond arrived according to his appointment, he brought with him the person he had engaged to attend Miss Fitzhugh. She appeared a respectable, middle-aged woman, who, she was informed, was well qualified for the situation, having before attended several ladies of rank. Georgiana was pleased with her appearance, and with the delicacy of her uncle's attention to her, in providing a female to travel with her.

Lord Desmond determined, as much as lay in his power, to prevent the renewal of the grief of the preceding day, hurried Georgiana to ascend the carriage; and she, equally feeling the necessity of tearing herself away, was soon ready to attend him; but the excessive distress of Judy O'Brien, which far exceeded that of the preceeding day, obliged Georgiana to smother her own feelings, and offer that comfort to the O'Briens she so much stood in need of herself. Lord Desmond's repeated promises of their soon meeting again was the only means of pacifying them.

They were just entering the carriage, when Judy, with a sudden recollection, stopped her, and, running to her drawers, brought out the miniature of Mrs. Fitzhugh, which the agitation of her mind had made her nearly forget; and, tying it round the neck of Georgiana, then lifting her hands and eyes to Heaven, she said, with compressive solemnity, "May the blessed saint, which this picture represents, protect and guard you in all dangers and difficulties, and make you a blessing to all around you, in the high station you are born to fill. Wear this, my beloved child, always; it will be fortunate to you, and let it ever keep in your remembrance your angel mother, and your tender nurse,";

Georgiana pressed the minature, together with the hand of Judy, with fervour, to her lips, and protested she would never take the string Judy had fastened round her neck off, till it broke of itself.

Even lord Desmond himself appeared affected by this little incident—for a few moments he contemplated the miniature, and then, almost carrying Georgiana into the coach, and having rewarded the O'Briens far beyond their expectation, he jumped in himself, and in a few minutes was out of sight. As the roads were very heavy and bad, and lord Desmond had his own horses, they did not proceed very rapidly. Our travellers had been two days on the road, when Georgiana was much surprised to find they were entering a large and populous town. It was evening, and the brilliancy of the lightened streets, the rich and extensive shops, with the number of carriages passing and repassing filled her with astonishment—"I did not think, sir," said she, addressing lord Desmond, "that your castle lay near a town, so populous as this, and so abundantly supplied with shops."

"It does not, my love," answered lord Desmond; "but suspend your surprise and questions till we alight, which will be in a few minutes, and then I shall satisfy you in respect to many particulars, of which you are yet uninformed,"

Georgiana remained silent, deeply ruminating on the words of her uncle; but she was soon interrupted by the carriage stopping before the door of a large and commodious inn, and being ushered into a good room, prepared for them, by orders which had been sent forward, immediately on entering into it a waiter came in and said, "The packet will sail, my lord, in two hours."—The amazement of Georgiana increased, which, being particularly obseryed by lord Desmond, he seated himself by her, and explained the reasons of what so greatly engaged her attention, in the following manner:—

"My dear Georgiana, I hope I have entirely removed from your ideas every trace of negligence on my part, respecting the length of time you continued at O'Brien's: many causes contributed to it, as I have before informed you; but the principal most certainly was, the constant expectation I had of the return of your father. The moment the melancholy account of his death arrived, I then resolved to act by you, in every respect, as though you were my own. I painfully reflected how greatly your education had been neglected; and that, in so remote a situation as Desmond castle, how difficult it would be to get proper instructors."

"After much deliberation on this subject, I determined to take you to London, where the very best masters, in every science, are easily procured, and where you can be introduced into proper societies. You are now in Dublin, and may expect (as you hear) soon to embark for the metropolis of England. That I did not sooner mention my intentions in this respect, originated in my anxious desire of preventing you unnecessary uneasiness; from the distress you experienced by your separation from the O'Briens, I am perfectly assured would have considerably increased, had you known the distance which separated you was to be so great; and the good people, too, would have been extremely wretched, had I fully informed them of my intentions; but you, my dear Georgiana, whose understanding appears so good, will enter into my reasons and views, with propriety, and form a just estimate of my regulations, resting assured, that, whatever I now, or may in future propose, shall have no other principle than to promote your happiness, improvement, and advantage."

Georgiana, though certainly very much surprised when lord Desmond first began his discourse, could not find any thing to object to as he proceeded. For herself she had no particular attachment to any place, except the humble cottage in which her infancy had passed; and, consequently, Dublin or London were, in course, as agreeable to her as Desmond castle, though her ardent mind, longing for improvement, and those superior instructions a metropolis afforded made her coincide in lord Desmond's opinion in preferring a residence where the advantages were so conspicuous in this respect: therefore, when he concluded, she thanked him for his great attention to her, and observed, she could not possibly have any reason to be dissatisfied at what he judged proper for her; yet she could not help wishing the poor O'Briens had known her destination, as she feared they would feel the disappointment of her being so far from them more severe, when they become acquainted with it, than at first.

To this remark lord Desmond returned an answer, so sufficiently proving that the measures he had adopted were entirely for their mutual happiness, that Georgiana was convinced by it of the kindness of his intentions, and felt obliged by it.—Yet, notwithstanding the extreme affection lord Desmond expressed for her, the great respect and deference paid her by the domestics, and the many plans of amusement and happiness he was continually proposing, as they travelled, the heart of Georgiana glowed not with that gratitude and respect for him, which was natural for her to feel towards those who had heretofore shown regard for her: there was a something which prevented a return, on her part, for his present goodness, for which she in vain endeavoured to account; but, she doubted not, time, and a more perfect knowledge of his disposition, would remove the uncommon reserve she now experienced towards him.

In a few hours after their arrival in Dublin, they embarked on board the packet; and, the wind being favourable, they soon landed on the English shore. From Holyhead they proceeded with all expedition to London; and shortly after took possession of a magnificent house, which had been previously prepared for them, in the vicinity of Grosvenor-square.

Georgiana was astonished at the elegance of the house she now inhabited; it far exceeded all her conceptions of magnificence, and, with the natural warmth of youth, she was charmed with all she saw; and she had been some weeks a resident in lord Desmond's mansion before its grandeur became familiar to her eyes, or her admiration satisfied.

According to his promise, lord Desmond provided the best masters for the amiable Georgiana, and, her mind being formed by nature to receive instruction with rapidity, the improvement she made in her different studies, more than answered lord Desmond's warmest expectation, and left little to be apprehended from the former neglect of her education; and she herself delighted with her employments, was assiduous in the extreme, and regretted every moment which was not devoted to some elegant pursuit.

Lord Desmond was equally anxious for her amusement as her improvement; but deferred seeing much company till she was presented, which was to be on the next ensuing birth-day, by which time their mourning would be over. Preparations were making for this occasion; but, in the mean time, lord Desmond took her to many public places, procured for her all the best publications, and, in every particular, endeavoured to make amends for former inattention.

(To be continued.)

THREE OXEN

WERE left with the Subscriber some time in December last---if said Oxen are not called for by the 6th August next, they will be exposed for sale by Auction, on his Premises.

JAMES BUBAR.

Nashwalk, 15th July, 1817.

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