

good reason he never thought proper to give me, accepted an invitation for my spending the winter with the family of Mrs. C——, this family were noted for their wealth and parsimony; the former we had often heard of, the latter I discovered after a very short residence with them, there can be nothing more hopeless than genuine vulgarity, arising from presumption of superior wealth, while the habits of humble life live demonstrated in every movement and action, where perhaps a certain tact of manner, the growth of education and *shrewdness* may be sufficiently acquired to cover defects, altho' a close observer can easily perceive that this is not an every day garb, we cannot expect to pluck flowers from a poor soil. Mrs. C—— was the daughter of low but wealthy parents, she had received the liberal education her father could so well afford, and certainly in a degree profited by it. She could draw prettily, spoke French fluently, and was a perfect musician, all these with a ready flow of words, rendered her an agreeable companion; she was peculiarly odd in person, short and disproportionably stout, with a countenance harsh and unpleasing, nature had been most bountiful, in encircling her mouth with a jetty down, and had not been unsparing to the sides of her face. She reminded me much of a fat burly poodle wadling and panting with the last gasp of the asthma, "but to give old nick his due," she could smile, and that one feature would have reduced a face even uglier than her own. It requires an abler pen than mine to do justice to Mr. C——. It is scarce possible to find words sufficiently forcible to convey to the mind's eye this man of size; the very reverse of his lady, he was as tall,—not quite as a giant, and stout in proportion, with a course bluff manner, when he occasionally reminded us of his existence which was not often, of few words and fewer ideas he was a perfect nonentity, an Englishman by birth, and a mongrel by education (I make use of the word by courtesy); he learnt his *a b c*, in England; and as he told me in a confidential way, he was not smart at his learning, so they sent him to America to do *some business*, and he had married Susie; and her money, and his money, had *done* the