

even more so in my sight. Her entrance was so sudden and so unexpected that it almost took my breath away, but to the lively young clerk with whom I had been talking a moment before it seemed a very ordinary event. I soon saw that he was acquainted with both mother and daughter, and to me, who was all impatience to get his ear for a moment and learn their names, it seemed that he expended an unnecessary amount of time in waiting upon them. Perhaps he was in love with Grace also. I could not endure the thought!

For fifteen minutes or more this young gossip of a clerk kept up a constant flow of talk with mother and daughter, and, what was worse, I was too far away to catch any part of the conversation.

I thought, however, that I heard my own name mentioned once or twice, and it seem that my ears did not deceive me, for a moment or two later the clerk called me over and introduced me to Mrs. Prentiss. "This," said he "is Joe Harwell, the young man I was telling you about," and then addressing me, he continued. "Mrs. Prentiss wants a man to help on her farm and I told her I thought you would go; you must be pretty well tired of school by this time."

"You will find it rather dull with us," said Mrs. Prentiss, "we don't see much company, but we will try to make you comfortable if you come."

All this time Grace had not said a word; no one seemed to think it necessary to make me acquainted with her; I don't believe she even bestowed a glance on me, and yet I would have seen Mrs. Prentiss wanting help a long time before I would have gone to her solitary farm to work for her, had it not been for Grace's sweet sake. As it was, I was very willing to,