

not have interrupted it, and then rapped at the door, which was immediately opened by a young lady, the same, as I supposed, who had enchanted me with the song.

I introduced myself and apologised for my intrusion. But I did this so awkwardly as to communicate some of my confusion, for I certainly was confounded, to the bright little fairy that confronted me; this I inferred from the slight tinge of crimson that deepened the roseate tint upon her cheek. She asked me to walk in. I thanked her and told her I only called to enquire the way to the nearest house where I could get shelter for the night, and, as I saw an ill-repressed smile of incredulity lighting up her expressive countenance I made an attempt to explain to her the object of my wandering into that wild and far off region. She looked at me as if I had spoken in an unknown tongue; she then stepped out upon the gallery as if to see whether any one was with me; on perceiving my servant with the horse and sleigh, she again begged me to walk in, or rather told me to do so in a tone of authority, which, cold as I was and worn out with wading through the deep snow, I felt not the slightest inclination to dispute. I did as I was bidden, and found myself seated in a snug little carpeted room by a comfortable fire. The furniture consisted of a square birch table in the middle of the floor, a number of common wooden chairs, a small side table between the two windows with a few shelves over it, well filled with books. The windows themselves were hung with drab damask furniture, so ample as evidently to have been made for larger ones. These, together with a hair sofa and a rather old piano, were relics, manifestly, of other if not of better days. My fair hostess left me for a moment to send directions to my servant to find the stable. When she returned she said her father was out in the bush with her brothers at work but would be home immediately and would be rejoiced to see me. As she spoke, his footsteps were heard upon the gallery, when she exclaimed "there he is!" and flew to meet him. On entering he shook me heartily by the hand and was indeed, as his lovely daughter prophesied, right glad to see me.

I saw at the first glance that there was a military air about him. Here, however, I was partly mistaken; he was a half-pay lieutenant of the other great branch of the service, the Navy. How he came there was soon told. He had bought wild land in this locality to the amount allowed to retired Officers settling in the Colony, without either knowing or caring where it was. He had fallen into the error, common to people in similar circumstances, of purchasing land where it was at the lowest rate and of course unsalable,

instead of at the highest, where the price proves it to be in great demand. He had not the means of purchasing elsewhere, and was consequently obliged to go and live upon it. He had now been there five years, during which he had not been idle. With his own labour and that of his sons, (he had three, two full grown fine young men, and the third a lad of some seventeen years,) together with that of a hired man or two which his means enabled him to obtain, he had made a most splendid farm. And the site! Oh, how I wished I could have seen it in the bright summer! It was such a picturesque and romantic spot—a perfect paradise. The whole family seemed duly to appreciate its surpassing beauty.

"We felt a little lonely at first, but that of course you know was naturally to be expected," the old man said in giving me a history of their adventures.

When I call him old it is merely in contradistinction to the other members of that happy family. He was not over forty-five. He had married very young. His first child was born while he himself was yet a minor. So at least he told me.

"But, after a little while," he continued, "what with the beauties of the place as they began gradually to be developed, the superior quality of the soil, which we soon discovered to be a great, indeed I may say, an inestimable treasure, as it brought us, in course of time, all the necessaries and comforts, and not a few of those luxuries of life in which we had been accustomed to indulge, in what we at first thought *had been* the happiest period of our lives.

"There is one item in the list—the long list of our comforts and enjoyments which I hardly know how to describe. It is indeed of a character such as you who live in the gay world can hardly comprehend much less appreciate."

"Oh! pray go on," I said as I saw he hesitated, "for I do assure you that I am more than half a settler in the wild woods myself already," and I some how or other, accidentally of course, looked towards the piano where the little lady of the lake sat with her whole attention apparently fixed upon a music book whose leaves she was rapidly turning over as if in search of something she could not find. And some how or other too, it so happened at that particular juncture, curious and improbable as such a strange coincidence may seem, her sparkling dark blue eyes looked off and away from that on which they'd been so fixed and bent for more than half an hour, and in their wanderings—no! they did not wander,—but turned at once full upon the speaker's face, and made him wish and pray that it might be his lot through life to settle down in some sequestered