

the parish, got me into service as waiting maid to the young ladies at the Grange.

"Miss Elinor Landsmeer was on the point of marriage with Mr. Carlos, and she used to talk to me a great deal about her lover, while I was dressing her hair of a night. He was so handsome, she said, so good natured; he danced and sang so well, rode so gallantly, was such a capital shot, and was so much admired by all the ladies, that she was, she considered, the most fortunate girl in the world to secure the affections of such a charming man. 'And then, Annie, beside all these advantages of person and manner, *he is so rich? so immensely rich*, that he can indulge me in all my tastes for pictures and flowers without ruining himself.' And then she clapped her hands and laughed in childish glee. And very young she was, and very pretty too, but it was not a showy prettiness. Miss Elinor was soft and gentle, not gay and dashing, like some of her elder sisters. They were all engaged to men of rank, and they laughed at their sister for marrying an untitled man. But she was so much in love with Mr. Carlos, that she was as happy as a lark.

"When I saw Mr. Carlos, I thought that she was indeed a fortunate young lady, and I could not help envying her, the handsome rich lover who was so soon to make her his wife.

"I always liked waiting upon my pretty young lady, but I felt a double pleasure in doing so when Mr. Carlos was by. He often joked Miss Elinor on my good looks and would ask her, 'if she were not jealous of her pretty maid.'

"'Oh, no,' she would laughingly reply. 'I am like you, Walter, I don't like ugly women about me. Annie is a nice pretty girl, cannot you find a good husband for her among your tenants.'

"'I'll do my best,' he said in the same bantering tone. 'By the by Annie, if that is your name, what do you think of my valet, Noah Cotton?'

"'What an antiquated name,' and my mistress laughed out. 'Was he brought up in the ark?'

"'Names go by contraries, my dear,' said the squire. 'Noah is quite young and instead of being soft like Cotton, is a devilish shrewd, clever fellow; I think he would suit your Annie exactly.'

"'Well, we shall see. Look at him, Annie, the next time he comes in, and tell me what you think of him.'

"'Oh, Miss Elinor,' I cried, blushing, and curtseying, 'I never look at the servants. I am too young to marry.'

"'But I did look at Mr. Cotton, and I thought him all that his master had said he was. He was

very attentive to me, and soon told me that he preferred me to all the young girls he had ever seen. Now, I did not love him, but I thought it would be a fine thing to be married, like my mistress; and Mr. Cotton had a good place of it with Mr. Carlos, and could keep me very comfortably. So, when he asked me to marry him, I consulted Miss Elinor, and she was enchanted, and said, 'that we should be married on the same day with her, and that she would buy my wedding suit, and Mr. Carlos would pay all the expenses of the marriage; and we could live with them still, in the same capacity.'

"And it all took place as she promised. I was dressed in white muslin with white ribbons and a white moss rose-bud in my bosom; and Mr. Carlos said, that I looked as handsome as my mistress, and that Noah was a very fortunate man, that if he had not been going to marry Miss Elinor, he would have married me himself. But this was all a joke then, and the gentleman laughed, but I do not think that my young mistress was pleased, for she did not smile even, but looked very grave and was very hard to please for some days after we left the Grange.

"Mr. Carlos took his bride abroad and we went with them to a great many different countries and places. It was rather dull for me, because I could not speak the outlandish lingo of those strange lands, and after the honey moon was over my husband grew very cross, and was very jealous of every man to whom I spoke, though God knows, at that time, I had never given him the least cause for suspicion.

"My master always reprimanded him, whenever he heard him speak sharply to me, but this interference only made him worse. Thus matters went on from day to day, until I began to hate him, and I wished from my very heart that I had never married. I no longer tried to please him, but did all in my power to vex and aggravate him. My mistress to whom I often complained of his cruel treatment, told me, that she thought I was wrong, that instead of making affronts out of every trifle, I should study more how to please him. That if she were to behave to her husband in the way that I did to mine, she should not wonder at his disliking her.

"I thought these observations very unkind, and unjust, and I left her room crying. Mr. Carlos met me in the hall, and asked what had happened, and I told him what his wife had said, and described how I had been treated by Noah. He pinched my cheek, and told me to dry my eyes, for crying spoilt my beauty, and not to care for what Noah, or my mistress said to me. That he was