

me ; but I kept my own counsel till a meet season.

On the Thursday the company as invited came, and nothing extraordinary was seen ; but in cutting up and helping a hen Dr Dinwiddie put one wing on Mrs Nugent's plate, and the other wing on my plate, and said, "There have been greater miracles than these two wings flying together ;" which was a sharp joke that caused no little merriment at the expense of Mrs Nugent and me. I, however, to show that I was not daunted, laid a leg also on her plate, and took another on my own, saying, in the words of the reverend doctor, "There have been greater miracles than that these two legs should lie in the same nest,"—which was thought a very clever come off ;—and, at the same time, I gave Mrs Nugent a kindly nip on her sonsy¹ arm, which was breaking the ice in as pleasant a way as could be. In short, before anything passed between ourselves on the subject, we were set down for a trysted pair ; and, this being the case, we were married as soon as a twelvemonth and a day had passed from the death of the second Mrs Balwhidder, and neither of us have had occasion to rue the bargain. It is, however, but a piece of justice due to my second wife to say that this was not a little owing to her good management ; for she had left such a well-plenished house that her successor said, We had nothing to do but to contribute to one another's happiness.

¹ *Sonsy.* Plump.