

singular, and therefore would not be detected, I should not relate it. I know very well, as soon as I return to my native land, if heaven has that happiness yet in store for me, a dozen of my charming friends—God bless them!—with their bright eyes and gentle entreaties, will be pressing me for a disclosure; but I tell them beforehand, I am panned in a stern philosophy, and shall remain immovable.

I had no sooner entered the house where my visit had been expected, than I was met with an unaffected cordiality, which at once made me at home. In the midst of gilded halls, and hosts of liveried servants, of dazzling lamps and glittering mirrors, redoubling the highest triumphs of art and taste; in the midst of books and statues and pictures, and all the elegances and refinements of luxury; in the midst of titles and dignities and ranks, allied to regal grandeur—there was one object that transcended and eclipsed them all, and showed how much the nobility of character surpassed the nobility of rank, the beauty of refined and simple manners all the adornments of art, and the scintillations of the soul, beaming from the eyes, the purest gems that ever glittered in a princely diadem. In person, in education and improvement, in quickness of perception, in facility and elegance of expression, in accomplishments and taste, in a frankness and gentleness of manners tempered by a modesty which courted confidence and inspired a respect, and a high moral tone and sentiment, which, like a bright halo, seemed to encircle the whole person, I confess the fictions of poetry become substantial, and the beau ideal of my youthful imagination realised.

But who was the person I described? A mere statue to adorn a gallery of sculpture? a bird of paradise, to be kept in a glass case? a mere doll, with painted cheeks, to be dressed and undressed with childish fondness? a mere human toy, to languish over a romance, or to figure in a quadrille? Far otherwise; she was a woman in all the noble attributes which should dignify that name; a wife, a mother, a housekeeper, a farmer, a gardener, a dairy-woman, a kind neighbour, a benefactor to the poor, a christian woman, "full of good works and almsdeeds which she did."

In the morning I first met her at prayers; for, to the honor of England, there is scarcely a family among the hundreds whose hospitality I have shared, where the duties of the day are not preceded by the services of family worship; and the master and the servant, the parent and the child, the teacher and the taught, the friend and the stranger, come together to recognise and strengthen the sense of their common equality in the presence of their common Father, and to acknowledge their equal dependence upon His care and mercy. She was then kind enough to tell me, after her morning arrangements, she claimed me for the day. She first showed me her children whom, like the Roman mother, she deemed her brightest jewels, and arranged their studies and occupations for the day. She then took me two or three miles on foot to visit a sick neighbor, and while performing this act of kindness, left me to visit some of the cottages upon the estate, whose inmates I found loud in their praises of her kindness and benefactions. Our next excursion was to see some of the finest and largest, and most aged trees in the park, the size of which was truly magnificent; and I sympathised with the veneration which she expressed for them, which was like that with which one recalls the illustrious memory of a remote progenitor.

Our next visit was to the greenhouses and gardens; and she explained to me the mode adopted there of managing the most delicate plants, and of cultivating, in the most economical and successful manner, the fruits of a warmer region. From the garden we proceeded to the cultivated fields; and she informed me of the system of husbandry pursued on the estate, the rotation of crops, the management and application of manures, the amount of seed sown, the ordinary yield, and the appropriation of the produce, with a perspicuous detail of the expense and results. She then undertook to show me the yards and offices, the byres, the feeding-stalls, the plans for saving, and increasing, and managing the manure, the cattle for feeding, for breeding, for raising the milking stock, the piggery, the poultry yards, the stables, the harness rooms, the implement rooms, the dairy. She explained the process of making the different kinds of cheese, and the general management of the milk, and the mode of feeding the stock; and then conducting me into the bailiff's house, she exhibited to me the Farm Journal, and the whole systematic mode of keeping the accounts and making the returns, with which she seemed as familiar as if they were the accounts of her own wardrobe.

This did not finish our grand tour; for, on my return, she admitted me into her boudoir, and showed me the secrets of her own admirable housewifery, in the exact accounts which she kept of everything connected with the dairy and market, the table, the drawing-room, and the servants hall. All this was done with a simplicity and