

length, seemed almost disproportioned, there was yet a looseness about his build which age would solidify and equalize. Still as we have seen, he was active and strong, the best runner and jumper in the neighbouring country around, and gave promise, when his sinews were fully developed, and his frame matured, of being a formidable athlete and gymnast. Such indeed we know he became.

"Now then," said Captain Arondale, "before we part I must say you have acted in a very handsome manner towards me, and I feel glad to have made your acquaintance. It is not so much what you have done, as the kind heart, the generous disposition manifest in your way of doing it. I hope you will think seriously about what I have said both to your brother and yourself. God forbid that anything I have said should tend to unsettle your mind, or render you dissatisfied with your position in life; as to your brother he evidently possesses decision of character and sound opinions about men and things; and you cannot do better, at the present, than be guided as you are evidently disposed to be, by his advice."

"We are very much obliged, for I am sure I can speak for the family, for your kind offer to my brother and the information you have given us. I will say nothing more about my own affair, to night. As to my brother leaving home, I really don't know how we could spare him, or for that matter how they could spare me. But you must not think Captain that we are all satisfied with our present position. We have only about twenty-five acres of land and although we manage to live comfortably we have very little to spare. If we could persuade mother to go with us to Canada, we could take out sufficient capital to clear up and stock a six hundred acre lot. As you said, we could take up two hundred acres, at least, each, my brother and myself, and mother another two hundred. We shall think about and talk about the matter depend upon it."

"You have said nothing about your sisters," said the Captain, "have they no voice in the matter?"

"Oh yes," said Ronald, "but we never think much about their opinion, they usually agree with mother."

"Very good, and likely to save them many an anxious hour of thought, but that, you know, cannot be always."

Now there is one thing, I ought to have mentioned before; if you should see a stranger round this part of the country, who resembles me, and that you might take for me, at the first sight, manage somehow to make his acquaintance; and write to me through my agents, if you find out he is my brother. This reminds me that your brother may forget the address I gave to him, but I must remedy that—"The captain took out a small memorandum book, and by the light of the moon resting his hand upon the stile, he wrote on one of the leaves the name and address of a commercial firm in Liverpool, and underneath the address:—

"Give the bearer, Mr. Ronald Oakson, any information he may require for the purpose of finding me, at any time, and you will oblige,

Yours obediently,

JOHN E. ARONDALE.