

anon, as by haphazard, she alighted on the very chapter she sought.

Verse by verse she read it through—oh! very bewildering was it all. Which was Granny's part? Not about the bondservants, nor yet about not sowing and tilling the land. No; folk did not have bondservants nowadays, and folk did not let the fields go a long, long year without ploughing and sowing them. At least, Grandfather did not, for he had once told her, he and she walking over the fields together, that he had ploughed, and sown, and reaped over that land for fifty years. Why, that was just the time the Bible said—fifty years. Was that what Granny wanted, and Grandfather would not allow it—to let the weeds grow, and nothing else—only the poppies, the daisies, and the weeds? How funny! Nance gave a little puzzled laugh, and, laughing, she lifted her head, and saw a shadow by the door. It was her grandfather looking in at her.

CHAPTER II.

"Well, little maid, laughing over the Bible? I didn't know 't were a book to laugh over," so he accosted her, pushing open the door a little wider.

"No, Grandfather, not over the Bible, but over Granny's jubilee."

"Ha! what do you know about Granny's jubilee?"

"She said she wanted a Bible jubilee, and I've found it. Shall I read it out, or do you know about it, Grandfather?" spoke unconscious Nance.

"No, I don't know about it exactly, but I don't think 't is anything to laugh at—at least, Granny didn't laugh about it a while ago, little Nance."

"No, she cried: but that was because—because—" Nance knew she was treading on dangerous ground, and wisely stopped.

"Well?" Abel Manly's brow darkened, if the child had seen it, but, deep in her book, she asked—

"Are you busy, Grandfather, or shall I read it?"

"Ay, read away."

Nance was dear to Able as the apple of his eye; she was the sweet living echo of the past and gone.

"A jubilee shall that fiftieth year be unto you; ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in it, of thy vine undressed," read the sweet, silvery tongue.

"That isn't Granny's jubilee, child," spoke Grandfather, with a comical smile.

"Is it this, about bondservants?"

"No, not about bondservants."

"Nor yet this, 'And ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family;' because we are all at home, in our family, and nobody away."

"If any are away, they will stay away; they don't deserve a jubilee," Grandfather's voice was husky.

"Who do you mean, Grandfather?"

But Abel never answered her, only said, "Hark! that's Granny calling you to dinner."

And so she was: "Nance, Nance," rance in to her like a strain of welcome music; so linking her hand in her grandfather's, she tripped away with him round by the summer house and the bees, and round by the back into the kitchen.

Was Grandfather angry with anyone? she wondered, as she ate her dinner and noted the cloud on his brow. No, not with her: he heaped her plate with just what she liked; nor yet with Granny, for he called her Annie more than once, and that was a sign of just the contrary; and there was no one else, except Jane, their one servant. No, nor was it Jane, for she heard him call her Jenny, as he went out.

(To be Continued.)

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