

hire to teach our school, Miss Ray. We want a teacher, and I saw a letter you wrote for the girl here, and I came over to see you about coming to teach in the school."

Here was such an opening as I sought, an opportunity of trying what I could do by myself, but what were the duties? "I have never taught, I am quite inexperienced. I would like to teach very well, but would prefer being an assistant until I am older, and have some knowledge of the duties of the place," I said to him, hesitatingly.

"If you are sure you will come, you will soon learn what to do. The school is small, a new section cut off from the old one, where the children got too many. It is easy to teach them, they are beginners," Mr. McLennan said, with a persuasive air.

I was perplexed; this seemed a providential opening to that independence for which I longed,—but if I should try and fail! Neither Uncle nor Aunt Henderson taught me to place a high estimate on my abilities. When Aunt summed up the list of my awkwardness, carelessness, stubbornness, and ingratitude, with the final ending that I was of no earthly use to any one, and how thankful she was that she was not my mother, it had a depressing effect. The more I hesitated, the more eager Mr. McLennan was to secure my services. At first his keen, dark eyes looked me all over with the expression, "How young you are? How little you are? I doubt if you will succeed." While he urged me to accept the situation, Mrs Ramsay joined us on the verandah.

"I am come to look after Miss Ray's interests, Mr. McLennan," she said. "You must not coax her away from me, unless you can make it worth her while. What salary will you give?"

"We will give her as much as twenty pounds currency for the first, and her board, if she will board round. We

will give more again, maybe, if all things go well."

"What does that mean?" I asked.

"It means that you will board at one house for a week or a fortnight, and then go to the next, for the same length of time, and so on, till you go round the section, and then begin again," said Mrs. Ramsay, laughing.

"I would not like that. I should have no home," I said quickly. "I would not do that at all."

"Of course you will do no such thing," said Mrs. Ramsay, decidedly. "If the section is not willing, Mr. McLennan, to board her at one place and try to make her comfortable, she shall not go at all. I do not wish Miss Ray to leave us, but if she would like to try teaching for a while, she can; but you must take good care of her and find a nice home for her where she will be as kindly treated as she deserves to be."

"That is quite right and kind of you, Mrs. Ramsay, to speak for the interests of the young girl. I am an old man and have girls of my own, and I will be kind to her, and look after her as if she were my own child."

As they talked about the board, my mind was taking stock of what I knew. I glanced doubtfully at my arithmetic, complacently at writing and history, and hopefully at other studies, and wondered if my knowledge of fancy-work would be of any service. Then I said, answering the language of his eyes, that I was afraid I was too young to manage growing boys. "They will stand in no awe of such a little person as I am," I said, irresolutely.

But Mr. McLennan overruled all my objections, and it was decided that if a comfortable boarding-place was provided, I would try the school for six months. I did not understand the relative value of money, and I thought twenty pounds a good deal. I heard when at home that the teacher of the poor-house children had fifteen pounds a year with board, and it was consider-