

neither beauty nor riches, so I am sure you could not fall out with him on that account. To be sure some persons call him distinguished looking, but I cannot tell why. By the bye, Belinda, do you think it is his pride that keeps him aloof from you? He believes papa is very wealthy, at least from what I have heard; and I suppose it is his nice sense of honor that obliges him to act thus, for I observed his eyes following you this evening with a half wistful expression. Now I am sure the candles did not require snuffing, and it makes me nervous to see any person walking about while I am talking.

"Bessy, the maid," continued Lavinia, "was relating to me, while arranging my hair this morning, the accident that happened to her brother, who you know is Captain Elton's groom. The poor fellow met with a serious fall some weeks ago, which fractured his arm, and otherwise disabled him. Of course he expected to be dismissed from his situation, as the doctor said he would not be able to do anything for several months. Sad news for a man who has a wife and six children to support. But what do you think his master did, when he heard of it? Went immediately to see him; sent him the best medical advice, and promised to pay him his wages as usual, until he should be fully recovered, and able to renew his service. And this, too, from a man comparatively poor. What a pity, Belinda, that he is not wealthy, though I suppose you would like him the better for that, then you would be able to give a practical demonstration of 'Love in a cottage.'"

Belinda smiled, and taking up her candle declared she must retire to rest, for morning was dawning.

"I am afraid these late hours do not agree with you," said Alice, as she looked up to bid her sister good night. "How flushed your cheeks are, you really appear feverish."

"I feel a little weary, certainly, but a few hours' rest will perfectly restore me. Good night."

"By the bye, Belinda, what day was named for the sleighing party?"

"Next Thursday."

"Ah, I had forgotten. Good night."