

FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS.

"Mother, why can't I go to school?"

"When brother and sister are snuffing up,

"The snow is deep, and the road too long

But when the Spring sun mounted high,

"This little questioner would tease

"On a bright May morn, he had his wish,

"And decked with motherly pride,

"The Teacher—a kind, earnest, high,

"By his gentle sister's side.

And oh! such sights little wonder-eyes saw

On the road to school that day!

Such queer, strange sights, he nearly forgot

The weariness of the way.

But a sense of awe steals o'er his heart,

When he enters the school-room door,

And bashfully walks by his sister's side,

His eyes closely scanning the floor.

The Teacher's voice has a sound of dread,

As he issues his stern commands,

In a fretful, sharp, reproving tone.

From the lofty place where he stands,

Class after class is called and dismissed

In the same commanding way:

The Teacher—a kind, earnest, high,

The Children—poor slaves to obey.

Our little hero with dangling feet

Sits wearily longing for night.

The dream is vanished and broken the spell

Which once was so pleasant and bright.

No word of sympathy greets him there,

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GUELPH, APRIL 9, 1873. GEORGE JEFFREY, GUELPH

ANNABEL

OR THE TEMPTATION.

CHAPTER XVII.

JOSEPH LANGTON IS UNEXPECTEDLY DELIVERED FROM HIS DIFFICULTIES.

Simmons, the carpenter, had mistaken Mrs Langton's orders, and instead of waiting in the ante-room, had returned to the kitchen.

On returning to the dining-room, however, she instantly rang the bell, and when Sally Primrose appeared in answer to it she was commanded to send the carpenter up that minute to screw down the lid.

Sally returned to the kitchen and gave Simmons the message. This latter had not quite finished his supper, but being busy with it he thought there could be no harm in ending his meal ere going to execute his task.

Meanwhile, Sally, who had contracted a strong affection for Annabel, longed with a yearning sadness to obtain a last look of her whom she had fondly hoped was to be ere long her mistress, and glided up to the room for that purpose.

An awe came over the simple girl's mind as she entered the solitary and dimly-lighted chamber of death, and for a moment she thought she would wait outside till Simmons came. But gathering courage she went in, and lifting the lamp turned it full up and approached the bed.

With a trembling she removed the cloth from the face, and almost screamed outright at this her first view of death.

The girl's first impulse was to fly from the room, but when she looked again the face, though so pale and fixed, was yet calm and placid beyond all living expression, and she stood still and gazed on it.

What a change death had made, she thought. The face was like and yet not like Annabel's. She fancied the features resembled those of Ellen Mattocks, but presently she called to mind that between Ellen and Miss Annabel a strong likeness had existed, and this accounted to her for the impression she received.

The sweet beauty of the face was such that she had a desire to kiss it, and she bent down to do so, when her eye fell on something which arrested her attention and stayed the act.

This was the carring which had not been removed, and which beyond all doubt she knew to have belonged to Ellen Mattocks, for she herself had put it into Ellen's ear before she left for France.

Could she have exchanged with Annabel? Could Annabel have fancied them and—

Great heavens, the ear itself was the ear of Ellen Mattocks. She knew it by that old scar which went across its upper portion. She had seen that scar when she pierced Ellen's ears, and the latter had told her it was the indelible mark of a wound received when she was young.

Sally Primrose was amazed, petrified, and was staring motionless at the object which had transfixed her, when a hand grasped her arm with a force which made her leap back with a scream.

She turned, and met the stern, angry face of Mrs. Langton.

"Girl, what are you doing here?" fiercely demanded her mistress.

"Nothing, ma'am," faltered Sally. "I only wished to take a last look of—of—Miss Annabel."

Just then Simmons came in, when the coffin lid was screwed down; and all the while Mrs. Langton was keenly watching Sally's face, to know if she had made a discovery.

Sally, however, managed to keep her countenance, and when the carpenter finished they all left the room together, Mrs. Langton locking the door and taking possession of the key.

On the second day from thence the funeral took place, the coffin being laid close to that of Mrs. Seymour.

And that very evening, after much agony of soul, Mr. Langton wrote a letter to Philip, breaking to him, with as much gentleness and sympathy as he could find language to express, the dreadful intelligence which must, when it reached him, strike him to the dust in agony and woe.

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