

muslin. The handkerchief was attached to the dress by a gold pin, with a pearl head; and the belt of her dress was fastened in front by two more gold pins, each with a diamond head. The bridegroom was a very small thin, awkward, ill-made man; his face— from which every morsel of whisker had been shaved off—was white, flat, and meaningless; and his dress, though quite new, was badly put on; it was, however, a strictly Quaker costume. In the course of the evening I said to the lady who had introduced me. "How did that mean-looking little man ever manage to get such a very lovely bride?" She smiled and answered, "strange as it may seem, I assure thee that it was Rachel who courted him, not he her. About four years ago, Rachel's sister was married, and she was so annoyed, that she, the eldest and so much the handsomer, should have been passed by; so she resolved to provide herself with a husband; and thou knowest that when a woman makes up her mind to do a thing, she triumphs over every obstacle. Rachel's first step was to draw out a list of the names of eligible young men; opposite to each name she placed the annual income, as correctly as she could ascertain it. The most wealthy was placed at the head of the list.—She had twelve names down.

They lived in all parts of England; one in London, one in York, one in Bristol, and so on. Sylvanus Otway was at the head of the list. She had never seen him, and he lived near Norwich. He was down for seven thousand a-year. Rachel seriously informed her father and mother that she had 'a concern' to attend the Norwich Quarterly Meeting. They had no acquaintances they cared for there, and were disinclined to take so long a journey; but Rachel became so silent and sad, and so often told them she was burdened with the weight of her concern to go, that they at length yielded to her wishes: and father and mother, Rachel and her sister Susanna, and one of her brothers, all went to Norwich. As the father and mother were acknowledged ministers, of course they were taken much notice of, and invited to all the Friends houses; amongst others, to Friend Otway's, and Rachel soon had the pleasure of being introduced to Sylvanus. She was delighted to find him a fine, handsome, intelligent looking young man, and to perceive that he was decidedly fascinated with his new acquaintances; and when at parting, he whispered to her sister, loud enough for Rachel to hear, "I hope soon to be in your city, and to have the pleasure of calling at your house," her cheek flushed with triumph, and her heart palpitated with joy at the success of her scheme. Sylvanus soon followed them as he had promised, and proposed for Susanna. He was promptly accepted; and they were married.—Rachel was exceedingly vexed and disappointed; but she resolved to try again, but she has never been friendly with Susanna since. The next on her list was Josiah Gumble, of York, and his income was six thousand. Again she informed her father, that it was required of her to attend the York Quarterly Meeting, and she added, "it had borne on her mind that the ministry of her beloved father, at that solemn assembly, would be blessed to some waiting minds." There is nothing pleases our ministers more than flattery of their preaching gifts. Rachel is an adept at it. She went to York and soon obtained the desired introduction to Josiah Gumble; he, too, was young, and passably well looking; Rachel contrived to be very much in his company; but she saw clearly that he could not be caught. She told me she never met any man who was so coldly insensible to beauty, and so stupidly indifferent to flattery. However, Rachel was not disheartened, for it soon came out that Josiah was the victim of an unrighteous attachment to the daughter of a clergyman; for love of whom he deserted his country, and is now—alas! that it should be so—with his six thousand a-year, gone over to the camp of the alien. The third on Rachel's list was John Jones, of London, her bridegroom now; he is worth about two thousand a year; and, as thou must see, no beauty. When Rachel first saw him, she was half inclined to leave him for somebody else; but the sacrifice was too great, and besides James Lewis might be as mean looking, so she resolved on the conquest of John Jones. It was very easily accomplished, he made no resistance, at once became the worshipper of her beauty; and now that they are married, I think it will be her own fault if they are not happy. He is not very wise, but he is good-humored and good-natured.

"How didst thou become acquainted with this amusing story?" said I. "Is it not a breach of confidence to tell it?" "No, indeed," she replied: there were more than a dozen of us in the room when she told it herself, and showed us the list; she said she did not want it now so she gave it to Martha Elton, and bade her give a copy of it to any of the girls who would like to try the same plan of getting settled in life.—Quakers, or the Story of my Life, London, 1852.

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