

this part of the country, but I have no occasion to conceal my name, and certainly no desire, from so loyal a family. My name, madam, is Arondale, in the King's service, travelling, however, at the present, on my own business, and doing so on foot for convenience and pleasure."

"Arondale," said the dame, "as though calling back a faded memory, "I used to know the Arondales of the Old Grange, are you one of them?" and she examined his features attentively.

"I am of the same family without question," said Arondale, "but you never knew me for I was born at the Manor House three miles away, besides, you very likely left England soon after I was born."

"Of course I did," said Mrs. Oakson, for such was her name, "I was quite young when my father emigrated to America, but how did you come to know?" Before giving him time to answer this question she added another, "but how, where did you meet my son?"

"I will answer," he said, "your last question the first. I was coming through the village and seeing quite a crowd on the green, and considerable stir besides, I walked up to see what there was to do, and found this tall son of yours and another young man, they called Sertum, had been jumping; and it was about a jump, that Sertum had made, that the disturbance had arisen. I listened to both sides and as I thought your son was hardly likely to get fair play I took sides with him against the young Squire, who evidently favoured Sertum."

"I'm afraid," said Mrs. Oakson "that our Ronald will get himself into trouble, yet, about this jumping business, but he will not be advised. I'm much obliged to you though for taking his part, especially as the Squire was there, for it will show the village folks that everybody is not willing to submit to his dictation."

"So far as I'm concerned it is quite likely," said Arondale, "that the Squire will be anything but flattered with the the manner in which he was treated; but I have seen such boys before and I am always willing to give them a cut in a cool way."

"Oh, mother," said Ronald, "if you had only seen the staring when this gentleman took the Squire down, in the way he did, I wish you had seen it. When I think of it now it seems a richer thing than anything I ever heard of, and I'm sure there will be lots of talk about it. The way the young Squire went off, with his *cur* Sertum, astonished everybody; he tried to look unconcerned, but it was plain enough to be seen that he was fairly cowed for once."

"Did he not threaten to do anything?" enquired Mrs. Oakson.

"Of course he did," said Ronald, "why, he never was so astonished in his life before, at the way in which he was served. Oh but will not he rage about it! I should not wonder but he'll try to revenge himself on me in some way.—But I dont mind."

Mrs. Oakson seemed somewhat concerned but she went about her preparations for the evening meal with a cordiality and cheerfulness of manner truly charming. Then she felt a little motherly pride in connection with any anxiety, she might have, for it