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FORTUNES OF A COUNTRY GIRL.

One day, I will not say how many years
—for I intend to be very mysterious for a
few to my readers—a young woman step-
ped from a country wagon that had just ar-
rived at the yard gate of the famous Chelsea
Goat and Compasses, a name formed
corrupting the name of the pious original,
and encompasseth us. The young woman
looked about the age of eighteen, and was
dressed, though in the very plainest
fashion of the times. She was well
bred and well looking, both form and look-
ing indications of the ruddy health conse-
quent upon exposure to sun and air in the
country. After stepping from the wagon,
which the driver immediately led into the
yard, the girl stood for a moment in ap-
parent uncertainty whether to go, when the
stress of the inn, who had come to the door,
over her hesitation, and asked her to en-
ter and take a rest. The young woman re-
joiced at the invitation, and soon, by the
direction of the landlady, found herself by
the side of a nicely scented parlour, with
a refreshment before her to refresh herself after
her long and tedious journey.

"And so, my poor girl," said the landlady,
after having heard, in return for her kindness,
the whole particulars of the young woman's sit-
uation and history, "so thou hast come all
the way to seek service, and hast no friend but
me in Dodge, the waggoner? Truly, he is
not to give thee but small help, wench, to-
wards getting a place?" "Is service, then,
to be had?" asked the young woman.
"Ay, marry, good situations, at least,
somewhat hard to find. But have a good
rest, child," said the landlady, and, as she
finished, she looked around her with an air
of pride and dignity; "thou see'st what I
can do for thee, my self; and I left the country
young thing, just like thyself, with as little
to look to. But tisn't every one, for certain,
that must look for such a fortune, and, in any
case, it must first be wrought for. I showed
thee a good servant, before my good Jacob,
and he rest his soul, made me mistress of the
Goat and Compasses. So mind thee, girl,
—the landlady's speech might have
been a long way, for the dame loved well
the sound of her own tongue, but for the inter-
ruption occasioned by the entrance of a gentle-
man, whom the landlady rose and welcomed
briskly. "Ha! dame," said the new comer,
"was a stout respectably attired person
middle age, "how sells the good ale?
truly a drop left in thy cellars I hope?"

"Enough to give your worship a draught af-
ter your long walk," said the landlady, as she
went to fulfill the promise implied in her words.
"I walked not," said the gentleman, "and it is
not that pair of ours, dame, down the ri-
ver, but it is I myself, and I have come to Chelsea
to see if you can find any thing."
"Ay, sir," replied the landlady, "and it is
that way of doing business that you have
made yourself, as all the city says, the richest
in the Brewers' Corporation, if not in all
London itself." "Well, dame, the better for
me if it is so," said the brewer, with a smile;
"but let us have thy mug, and this quiet pret-

ty friend of thine shall pleasure us, mayhap,
by tasting with us."

The landlady was not long in producing a
stoup of ale, knowing that her visitor never
set an example hostile to his own interests by
condemning the consumption of foreign
spirits. "Right, hostess," said the brewer,
after he had tasted it, "we'll make and well
kept, and that is giving both thee and me our
dues. Now, pretty one," said he, filling one
of the measure or glasses which had been placed
before the stoup, "wilt thou drink this to
thy sweethearts health?" The poor country
girl to whom this was addressed declined the
offer civilly, and with a blush; but the land-
lady exclaimed, "Come, silly wench, drink
his worship's health: he is more likely to do
thee a service, if it so please him, than John
waggoner. The girl has come many a mile,"
continued the hostess, "to seek a place in
town, that she may burden her family no more
at home." "To seek service!" exclaimed the
brewer; "why, then, it is well met with
us. Has she brought a character with her, or
can you speak for her, dame?" "She has
never yet been from home, sir, but her face is
her character," said the kind-hearted land-
lady; "I warrant me she will be a diligent
and trusty one." "Upon thy prophecy, hos-
tess, wilt take her into my own service; for
but yesterday was my house-keeper complain-
ing of the want of help, since this deputyship
brought me more into the way of entertaining
the people of the ward."

Ere the wealthy brewer and deputy left the
Goat and Compasses, arrangements were made
for sending the country girl to his house in the
city on the following day. Proud of having
done a kind action, the garrulous hostess took
advantage of the circumstance to deliver an
immensely long harangue to the young woman
on her new duties, and on the dangers which
youth is exposed in large cities. The girl
heard her benefactor with modest thankfulness,
but a more minute observer than the good
landlady might have seen in the eye and coun-
tenance of the girl a quiet firmness of expres-
sion, such as might have induced the cutting
short of the lecture. However, the landlady's
lecture did end, and towards the evening of the
day following her arrival at the Goat and Com-
passes, the youthful rustic found herself in-
stalled as housemaid in the dwelling of the
rich brewer.

The fortunes of this girl, it is our purpose to
follow. The first change in her condition
which took place subsequent to that related,
was her elevation to the vacated post of house-
keeper in the brewer's family. In this situa-
tion she was brought more than formerly into
contact with her master, who found ample
grounds for admiring her propriety of conduct,
as well as her skilful economy of management.
By degrees he began to find her presence ne-
cessary to his happiness; and being a man
both of honourable and independent mind, he
at length offered her his hand. It was accept-
ed; and she, who but four or five years
before had left her country home barefooted,
became the wife of one of the richest citizens
in London.

For many years, M. Aylesbury, for such
was the name of the brewer, and his wife,
lived in happiness and comfort together. He
was a man of good family and connexions,
and consequently of higher breeding than his
wife could boast of, but on no occasion had he
to blush for the partner whom he had chosen.
Her calm, inborn strength, if not dignity,
of character, conjoined with an extreme quick-
ness of perception, made her fill her place at
her husband's table with as much grace and
credit as if she had been born to the station.
And, as time ran on, the respectability of Mr.
Aylesbury's position received a gradual in-
crease. He became an alderman, and, subse-
quently, a sheriff of the city, and in conse-
quence of the latter elevation, was knighted.
Afterwards—and now a part of the mystery
projected at the commencement of this story,
must be broken in upon, in as far as time is
concerned—afterwards, the important place
which the wealthy brewer filled in the city,
called down upon him the attention and favour
of the king, Charles I, then anxious to concili-

ate the good-will of the citizens, and the city
knight received the farther honour of baro-
netry.

Lady Aylesbury, in the first years of her
married life, gave birth to a daughter, who
proved an only child, and round whom, as was
natural, all the hopes and wishes of the pa-
rents entwined themselves. This daughter
had only reached the age of seventeen when
her father died, leaving an immense fortune
behind him. It was at first thought that the
widow and her daughter would become inter-
ests of this without the shadow of a dispute.
But it proved otherwise. Certain relatives of
the deceased brewer set up a plea upon the
foundation of a will made in their favour before
the deceased had become married. With her
wonted firmness, Lady Aylesbury immediately
took steps for the vindication of her own and
her child's rights. A young lawyer, who had
been a frequent guest at her husband's table,
and of whose abilities she had formed a high
opinion, was the person whom she fixed upon
as the legal assessor of her cause. Edward
Hyde was indeed, a youth of great ability.
Though only twenty-four years of age at the
period referred to, and though he had spent
much of his youthful time in the society of the
gay and fashionable of the day, he had not
neglected the pursuits to which his family's
situation, as well as his own taste, had devoted
him. But it was with considerable hesitation,
and with a feeling of anxious diffidence, that
he consented to undertake the charge of Lady
Aylesbury's case; for certain strong, though
unseen and unacknowledged sensations, were
at work in his bosom, to make him fearful of
the responsibility, and anxious about the re-
sult.

The young lawyer, however, became counsel
for the brewer's widow and daughter, and,
by a striking exertion of eloquence, and display
of legal ability, gained their suit. Two days
afterwards, the successful pleader was seated
beside his two clients. Lady Aylesbury's usual
manners were quiet and composed, but she now
spoke warmly of her gratitude to the preserver
of her daughter from want, and also tendered
a fee—a payment munificent, indeed, for the
occasion. The young barrister did not seem at
ease during Lady Aylesbury's expression of her
feelings. He shifted upon his chair, changed
colour, looked to Miss Aylesbury, played with
the purse before him, tried to speak, but stop-
ped short, and changed colour again. Think-
ing only of best expressing her own gratitude,
Lady Aylesbury appeared not to observe her
visitor's confusion, but rose, saying, "In to-
ken that I hold your services above com-
pensation in the way of money, I wish also to
give you a memorial of my gratitude in an-
other shape." As she spoke thus, she drew a
bunch of keys from the pocket which every
day carried in those days, and left the room.

What passed during her absence between the
parties whom she left together, will be best
shown by the result. When Lady Aylesbury
returned, she found her daughter standing with
averted eyes, but her hand in that of Edward
Hyde, who knelt on the mother's entrance,
and besought her consent to their union. Ex-
planations of the feelings which the parties
entertained for each other, ensued, and Lady
Aylesbury was not long in giving the desired
consent. "Give me leave, however," said
she to the lover, "to place around your neck
the memorial which I intended for you. The
chain—'tis was a superb gold one—'tis was
a token of gratitude from the ward in which he
lived, to my dear husband." Lady Ayles-
bury's calm serious eyes were filled with tears as
she threw the chain round Edward's neck,
saying, "These links were borne on the neck
of a worthy and honoured man. May thou,
my beloved son, attain to still higher hon-
ours."

The wish was fulfilled, though not until dan-
ger and suffering had tried severely the parties
concerned. The son-in-law of Lady Ayles-
bury became an eminent member of the English
bar, and also an important speaker in parlia-
ment. When Oliver Cromwell brought the
king on the scaffold, and established the Com-
monwealth, Sir Edward Hyde—for he had
held a government post, and had been knighted

—was too prominent a member of the royalist
party to escape the enmity of the new rulers,
and was obliged to reside upon the continent
till the Restoration. While abroad, he was so
much esteemed by the exiled prince (after-
wards Charles II) as to be appointed Lord High
Chancellor of England, which appointment
was confirmed when the king was restored to
his throne. Some years afterwards, Hyde was
elevated to the peerage, first in rank of a bar-
on, and subsequently as Earl of Clarendon,
a title which he made famous in English his-
tory.

These events, so briefly narrated, occupied a
large space of the time, during which Lady
Aylesbury passed her days in quiet and retir-
ing life. She had now the gratification of behold-
ing her daughter Countess of Clarendon, and
of seeing the grandchildren who had been born
to her, mingling as equals with the nobles in
the land. But a still more exalted fate awaited
the descendants of the poor friendless girl who
had come to London, in search of service, in a
waggoner's van. Her granddaughter, Anne
Hyde, a young lady of spirit, wit, and beauty,
had been appointed, while her family of
Clarendon, and in that situation had attracted so
strongly the regards of James, Duke of York,
and brother of Charles II, that he contracted
a private marriage with her. The birth of a
child forced on a public announcement of this
contract, and ere long the granddaughter of
Lady Aylesbury was openly received by the
royal family, and the people of England, as
Duchess of York, and sister-in-law of the so-
vereign.

Lady Aylesbury did not long survive this
event. But ere she dropped into the grave,
at a ripe old age, she saw her descendants
hitherto presumptive of the British Crown. King
Charles had married, but had no legitimate
issue, and, accordingly, his brother's family
had the prospect and the right of succession.
And, in reality, two immediate descendants
of the barefooted country girl did ultimately
fill the throne—Mary (wife of William, III),
and Queen Anne, princess both of illustrious
memory.

Such were the fortune of the young woman
whom the worthy landlady of the Goat and
Compasses was fearful of encouraging to rash
hopes by a reference to the lofty position
which it had been her own fate to attain in life.
In one assertion, at least, the hostess was un-
doubtedly right, that success in life must be
laboured for in some way or other. Without
the prudence and propriety of conduct which
won the esteem and love of the brewer, the se-
quel of the country girl's history could not
have been such as it was.

CANADA.—DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. (From the New York Albion of the 10th Nov.)

Whereas, the solemn covenant made with
the people of Lower Canada, and recorded in
the statute book of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Ireland, as the 31st chapter
of the Act passed in the 31st year of the reign
of King George III. hath been continually
violated by the British Government, and our
rights usurped; and whereas, our humble peti-
tions, addresses, protests and remonstrances
against this injurious and unconstitutional in-
terference have been made in vain, and the
British Government hath disposed of our reve-
nue without the constitutional consent of the
Local Legislature, pillaged our Treasury, ar-
rested great numbers our citizens, and com-
mitted them to prison, distributed through the
country a mercenary army, whose presence is
accompanied by consternation and alarm;
whose track is red with the blood of our people,
who have laid our villages in ashes, profaned
our temples, and spread terror & waste through
the land. And whereas we can no longer suf-
fer the repeated violations of our dearest rights,
and patiently support the multiplied outrages
and cruelties of the Government of Canada.—
WE, in the name of the PEOPLE OF LOWER
CANADA, acknowledging the decrees of Divine
Providence which permits us to put down a
Government which hath abused the object and
intention for which it was created, and to
make choice of that form of Government which