

the earl passed into the court, and was folded in the embrace of his grandson, the cords of an illuminated balloon were cut, and the globe of light, ascending high in the air, gave notice, far and near, of this auspicious return. Through the hall and great corridor to the chapel, a line of guests on either side strewed flowers. The chorus from the outer court was now succeeded by the strains of the organ, with voices singing from the eightieth psalm—

"How lovely are Thy tabernacles, Oh, Lord of Hosts! my soul longeth and fainteth for the courts of the Lord. For better is one day in Thy courts above thousand years. Oh, Lord of Hosts! blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee."

Then followed the function of the benediction, during which the suppressed emotion of the two chief assistants found relief, unseason by mortal eye. The psalm of thanksgiving closed the service—"Oh! praise the Lord all ye nations: praise Him all ye people, for his mercy is confirmed upon us, and the truth of the Lord remaineth forever." Lord Charleton then leaning on the arm of his grandson, left the chapel, followed by all the congregation, and returning to the hall, ascended the great staircase to the picture gallery, where was spread the banquet. All had been previously arranged with the minutest attention to order and precedence, so that, on standing at the head of the first table, while the chaplain gave thanks and blessed the viands, the earl found himself in the midst of friends. On his right hand was one ever kindly remembered—the dowager Duchess of Peterworth, supported by the Marquis of Seabam, his distant relation, and the son of early playmates. On his left, Lady Clara Chamberlayne, with Lord Stanmore and Lady Violet. The vis-a-vis to Lady Violet, next to the Marquis of Seabam, was the newly-inaugurated family chaplain. Other families of the neighborhood followed, and below the salt were seated the delighted tenants of the estate. The banquet table sparkled with precious metal, cut glass, and flowers, nor were the substantial parts omitted. The various wines, also, "gladdening the heart of man," were successful in their accredited use, and very soon, to the silent grasp of the hand, and short sentences at intervals of compliment or emotion, succeeded the feast of reason and the flow of soul. The band of music took the hint. From the stirring overture and triumphant march, the succeeding airs were softened to a tone the most subordinate. At length, at a signal, the music ceased, and the Earl of Charleton thus addressed his guests:—

"My friends, I thank you for your cordial welcome home, and in my turn I most cordially welcome you all to Woolton Court. Joy is social; it expands first to the Almighty bestower of all good, and then seeks the sympathy of man. If the woman in the Gospel, on finding the lost piece of money, calls around her the neighbors to rejoice, much more should he do so, who, having lost the inheritance of his fathers, has now regained it. But I bid you not only to rejoice and give thanks with me, but also to bear witness that house and lands thus recovered are considered by me, their earthly owner, as doubly held in trust for the service of the Divine Giver."

Lord Charleton did not look on himself as an orator, but many a one might have learned of him the rare and happy art of expressing briefly what he felt strongly, and of leaving his subject before it had left him, or, in other words, knowing where to stop. To the acclamations and health drinking, which, especially at the further end of the tables, was most inspiringly vivacious, other speeches succeeded. The marquis, as before at his own house, gave the history of the earl in exile; and if Arthur had then admired the eloquence of the speaker, and at length had been carried from the actual scene to those described, his enjoyment, on the present occasion, was fully equal in watching

the effect produced on others; for the marquis, doubly inspired by the presence both of grandsons and heir, surpassed himself. Lord Charleton was deeply affected, and at the conclusion, when his grandson arose to return thanks, in a self possessed, manly, and heartfelt tribute to both the orator and the subject of his praise, he felt that earth could give no more.

Two othershort and effective speeches followed—one from Squire Gollott, a warm-hearted neighbor, who desired to represent the gentry of the county, the other from the reverend chaplain, whose speech concluded by returning thanks to Heaven, during which all the company rose, the music recommenced, and by a private door at the top of the banquet gallery the guests at the high table passed, with their hosts, to the drawing-rooms.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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