

my hand in marriage before I know whether I love him or not—it is infamous. I cannot—I will not obey you.'

"'You will do as I say,' roared her father. 'Do not dare disobey me. Now to your chamber, you ungrateful wench, and make yourself handsome for your bridegroom.'

"Poor Lady Jean went to her room broken-hearted. She was only sixteen years old, and did not feel very wise, nor very strong to oppose the will of her father. She sobbed out her sorrow to her old nurse, who had taken care of her all her life, and who loved her as her own.

"'There, there, lambie,' soothed old Nancy, 'don't be taking on so. You do just as your own pure heart tells you. When the time comes, you go down stairs and do and say just as you feel. Old Nancy knows that all will turn out well.'

"The Lady Jean and old Nancy had for a long time been in the habit of going out on the estate, in the fields and among the woods, for romps with the great dogs that belonged to the castle. One day, when Jean had thrown her ball to a dog, it had rolled down a hill into a meadow where a young shepherd was minding his flock. The ball rolled near him, and as he looked up he saw the young girl coming toward him looking for it. He picked it up and, as he handed it to her, marvelled at her young beauty. She, on the other hand, thanked him shyly and realized that he was very handsome and seemed superior to most shepherd lads.

"This was but the beginning. It became a regular thing for her to go toward the valley meadow and there meet Kenneth, the young shepherd, and play games with him or help him watch the sheep while old Nancy looked on. The great Earl knew nothing of all this, or of the attachment that had sprung up between the two young people.

"When the prince arrived at the castle, the Earl sent for his daughter and received her alone in his study. He admired