
Elfa

shunning me ; should give me their esteem, in place of their suspicion ; should pay me the tribute of a deference to my judgment and proffer me in honest truth and sincerity the good right hand of friendship wrought as complete a change in me as was ever wrought of old when the Christ drove out the devil from a man and let in the light of charity and righteousness.

It was a revelation ; showing, as a mirror reflects the true or distorted face of him who gazes in it, that it had been my own distempered fancy that formerly had but seen itself in the eyes of my fellows. I grew to look for goodwill in place of ill : and what I looked for, I found.

It was all to Elfa that I owed it, and owed the peace and happiness that flourished abundantly on every side. Not happiness of the kind that I had known at first on the Grossberg : like to the monotone peace of the desert : but the happiness whose rhythm runs with the harmony of cheering looks and pleasant friends and the silver chimes of the voices of love.

And through it all the lesson of my life ran sweetly and helpfully : like the tracery of sap veins in a broad leaf, blending with its comeliness and adding to its growth : the lesson that Heaven itself had set me when sending a creature of such fragile fibre as Elfa to be my helpmeet, and thus compelling me to seek my happiness in the rigid suppression of all thoughts and words and ways of harshness.

Life became like an easy road through a fair