

Orleans, was a thoughtless, but kind-hearted girl, and never felt happier than when employed in canvassing matches. On the morning when the Cameron party arrived at the Springs, she had sent her brother to learn the names of the newcomers. On his return he mentioned Fanny Middleton as one of the new arrivals, so 'twas not surprising that Lida should so readily recognize her.

A few days passed on Lida too heard of the supposed engagement between Fanny and Frank Cameron, and for once kept silent upon the subject, at least in Fanny's presence. Nearly as she loved to discuss such matters, she felt there was something in the character of her new friend which forbade an approach to any thing like jesting about so personal an affair as one's own engagement. She, however, fully believed the report; for every thing she saw tended to confirm it, and she was anxious to return home, that she might carry the important news to Julia and Dr. Latexy. Poor Fanny! The clouds were gathering darkly about her, but she, all unconscious of this consequence, talked, laughed, roiled and sang with Frank, never thinking that she was thus confirming Lida in a belief which would tend to remove Dr. Latexy farther and farther from her. Could Lida have heard a conversation, which, one evening, took place between Mrs. Cameron and Fanny, different very different would have been the report which she carried back.

One evening as Fanny, Lida, and Gertrude were walking upon the piazza, a servant came, saying that Mrs. Cameron desired to see Miss Middleton in her room. Fanny immediately obeyed the summons, and as soon as she had gone, Lida laughingly congratulated Gertrude upon the prospect of having so pleasant a sister. Gertrude smilingly received Miss Gibson's congratulations, "for," thought she, "even if Fanny does not marry Frank, Miss Gibson will probably never know it, as she is to leave in a few days."

Let us now with Fanny repair to Mrs. Cameron's room, but not like her wondering *why* she was sent for. We well know why, and consequently are prepared for the look of mingled indignation and a touch of contempt, which appeared on Fanny's face when she learned that Mrs. Cameron was pleading the cause of her son! Fanny answered, "Madam, I have always entertained the highest respect for your son, but I must confess it is lessened if it is with his knowledge you are thus speaking to me."

Mrs. Cameron, who had intimated that it was at Frank's request that she should intercede for him, now saw her mistake, and declared Frank was ignorant of the whole. Mrs. Cameron tried by every means in her power to persuade Fanny into compliance with her wishes, but Fanny repeated her first answer, "I cannot, Mrs. Cameron, I cannot marry Frank. I acknowledge I like him as I would a brother. Further remonstrance is useless, for I shall never marry him."

"And why not?" asked Mrs. Cameron. "Do you love another? Are you engaged to another?" "I cannot answer these questions," said Fanny. "Frank knows my reason and has my permission to give it to you." Then rising, she added, "I suppose our conference is now ended, and with your leave I will retire."

Mrs. Cameron nodded her head in assent, and Fanny left the room. A moment after she quitted the apartment, Gertrude entered, all impatience to know her mother's success.

"Baffled, baffled," was Mrs. Cameron's reply to her interrogatories. "I can do nothing with her. She is stubborn, and we shall have to conjure up some reason why the engagement was broken off, or run the risk of being laughed at among our circle in New York."

A few days after this Lida Gibson started for the south, promising Fanny that she would see Julia after her return home. Ere long Mrs. Cameron too was seized with a desire to return to the city, and accordingly Mr. and Mrs. Stanton, Mrs. Cameron, Frank and Gertrude were soon in New York.

Soon after their return, Mrs. Cameron said, speaking of Fanny, "that 'twas doubtful whether Frank would marry her or not. She was so young, and had too many suitors in Kentucky, that she would probably soon forget him, and for her part was pleased enough to have it so!"

## CHAPTER XIX.

### AN ECLIPSE—LOVE NOT DEAD.

SUMMER was gone, and the first bright sunny days of autumn had come.

Again in Kate Wilnot's home, were tears wept and blessings breathed, as Mr. and Mrs. Wilnot bade farewell to their "children," as they called the individuals who were that morning to start for their home in Kentucky.

"God bless you, Kate," said Mrs. Wilnot, as she kissed her only child. Then turning to Fanny she said, "And you, my other daughter, you have my earnest prayers for your happiness."

Mr. Wilnot could not speak, but his feelings were not less deep, as he embraced his child and shook the hands of Mr. Miller and Fanny. Old Hector, too, seemed to cling more closely to Fanny. He would look up in her face and howl as if he knew she was leaving him forever. "Fare thee well!" said Fanny, and do you, in fact, love me so well? then kneeling by him, she drew from her neck a locket, in which was a miniature of herself. To this she attached a blue ribbon, which she fastened around Hector's neck, saying, "I cannot stay with you, Hector, but you shall have my likeness." Afterward, when strangers visited the house, and marvelled at Hector's singular freak, they were shown the sweet face, which looked forth from the golden casing, and were told the story of the young girl, who's presence had been like sunshine in the life of Wilnot's home.

Mr. Miller was not willing that Fanny should leave New York without having visited Niagara. Accordingly they stopped at the Park, and were joined by Mr. and Mrs. Stanton and Fanny, the latter of whom was desirous of seeing Fanny as long as possible. He accompanied them to Buffalo, and staid upon the boat which was to bear them away until the last of the month. As he was leaving them, Kate asked if they were taking anything of his with them. "Yes, everything," he answered. Soon the steamer was moving over the water of Lake Erie. On the upper deck our Kentucky friends were waving their handkerchiefs to Frank, who stood upon the wharf as long as one