

LITTLE FEET.

And why do you knit, my childless friend,
And why fly the needles so fleet?
The house is still
As a frozen rill:

ANNABEL

THE TEMPTATION.

CHAPTER XI.

A FAR JOURNEY RESOLVED ON—A PEEP BEHIND THE SCENES—"THE TEMPTATION" APPROACHES.

"To America!" he repeated. "Why, sir, in course you are joking."

"No, I am not; I am perfectly serious. We have just discovered that it is necessary for Mr. Weston to go, and we wish you to accompany him."

"Very happy to do so, I am sure," exclaimed Jim, with hearty readiness.

"I know he would," cried Annabel, in joyous accents. "Thank you, Jim; thank you a thousand times."

"There's not a bit o' need for you to thank me, Miss Annabel," returned Jim. "I'll go with Mr. Phillip to the end of the earth, proud and happy."

"Ah, but you don't know all that may be involved in it Jim," said Phillip. "This is how it comes about. You know why you were sent to Liverpool for this desk?"

"In course I do, sir. It was for Miss Annabel to get the certificate out of it."

"Well, it turns out that there is no certificate in it. Annabel expected it was there, but it is not; and for want of it her parents' marriage cannot be shown."

"Go! In course I'll go, sir; and as I said before, sir, very happy to do it, and more now than ever, when I know what you are going for."

"Jim you are a generous fellow," said Mr. Langton, an assertion which every one was forced to make who knew Jim Rufe.

"Not a bit on it, sir," responded the latter, with characteristic modesty. "Generosity, as I takes it, is a doing of summat you don't like for the sake o' serving another. Now, sir, that ain't my case at all. To go to America with Mr. Phillip is wot I likes uncommon. I'm a bit restless in my natur, sir, as Mr. Phillip knows; I likes to see new places, and to be moving about; so you couldn't have asked me to do a thing I had more heart for."

"Why, sir, it's not as if I were going to America to see new places, and to be moving about; so you couldn't have asked me to do a thing I had more heart for."

"I can guess it, Miss Annabel," said Jim, with a glance at Bernard Hayes. "And if there is anything you may be surer o' than another it is this, that Mr. Phillip and I will find the man we are going to seek, if he is alive and within the four corners of the country."

"While Jim was saying this, and claiming the attention of her husband, Phillip, and Annabel, Mrs. Langton glided past the window recess where Bernard stood in gloomy dejection, and when she was close to him she hurriedly whispered—

"Meet me in half an hour in the shrubbery."

"Now, but the car for which they were intended heard the words, and ere any of the others had time to notice that she had moved from her place she was again at Annabel's side, with her face—so frowning a moment before—smoothed into an affectionate expression.

"I will pray for your success," said Annabel in answer to Jim's inspiring words. "That is all I can do."

"And a good deal, too, Miss if I may be allowed to say so," replied Jim, with a serious look—"a very great deal indeed. More now any of us may know about. Looking at all things back and forward, and particularly the cause and object o' our going, I'm in humble hopes as how He who hears prayer and can help us won't refuse to listen to your asking, Miss Annabel. Only I fear—how you will be lonely when Mr. Phillip is away."

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