

"I will go," said Carl, rising. "to assist in the care of his horse."

The speaker donned his hat and rubbers and left the room. As he was going, the man at the head of the table said to him: "Be not too long gone, if you intend accompanying me to the schoolhouse."

Carl had scarcely gone, when a voice was heard calling from a room within: "Frances."

The woman at the foot of the table heard, and said: "Frances, your grandmother calls."

Frances arose with some alacrity, and left the room. When gone, the man at the head of the table said: "Rodney is regular in his attendance on our daughter."

"His attentions are ill-timed," replied the wife, "since they prevent her going to a place of worship, during the Sabbath afternoons."

The man responded by saying: "She will accompany him to the evening service in Adams; and were she at liberty to go during this afternoon, she would not know whom to attend, her mother to the Hornerite chapel or her father to the Methodist schoolhouse."

"Not again to-day," replied the woman, "should we discuss that unhappy subject. Some day will harmonize, I trust, our religious differences. But tell to me, George, if Rodney is your ideal gendre."

Her husband replied: "I do not expect perfection, Lucretia, nor did we impart that state to our son. Moreover, the affections of Frances must reject or accept, and not the conjectural considerations of her parents."

"I agree," replied the woman; "and thus it is that a child, a girl, and a maiden should be reared with great care and with gentle culture, that the instincts of the budding woman may be alive to the presence of true worth in man, and lead her to reject the pseudo and embrace the intrinsic. A damsel should have learned during all of her pubertic years, that the virginal state must not lightly be bartered away, that it is her peculiar endowment of God."

The husband did not answer this speech, and presently his wife resumed: "But I must say that I shall never approve the marriage of an unsaved couple. For when the grafted tree appertains to Satan, to him also belongs the fruit."

"I cannot, Lucretia, endorse that opinion," replied the man. "I consider that children belong, universally, to the Lord."

At this point in the conversation, Frances returned, and Ludwig might be seen driving to the door. The man and his wife arose from table, and the latter assumed with rapidity the externals of her costume. While thus engaged, Carl and Rodney entered, to the latter of whom the man, the woman, and their daughter said: "Good day."

Rodney replied: "Good day to all."

Then the wife, while she secured her bible and tunebook, said: "Lay aside your coat and cap. If you, Frances, will gather the dishes, and pile them for washing on the other table, I will dispose of them after supper."

By this time the husband was arrayed for travel, and said: "Carl, if you are ready, we will start."

Carl was ready, and they went. Frances replied to her mother: "I can attend the dishes, mother; your apron will enable Rodney to assist."

"I am wholly at your service," observed the man.

A voice was now heard calling from without: "All is in waiting, mother."