

350 Daughters of the Dominion

for her work, and to carry some cakes for Joey, who had a childish fondness for all sweet things.

Dick Bronson had gone off for a final ramble through the hills, and had been absent all the morning, but he came down to the Settlement just as Nell was coming away from Mrs. Trip's, and walked home with her.

"What are you going to do when Miss Lorimer gets married?" he asked abruptly, as they turned their backs on the last ugly houses of the Settlement, and took the winding road through the forest.

"Gertrude will not marry just yet," she said.

"Dr. Russell told me yesterday that he thought it would be in the spring, and he also said that he thought of coming to live at Camp's Gulch, because it was growing so much faster than Bratley," Dick Bronson said, not looking at Nell, but watching a fragment of white fleecy cloud that sailed slowly across the blue sky over his head.

"I shall keep the children—at least, some of them. I know Gertrude wants Teddy and Abe to bring up with Sonny; but Flossie and Patsey are my property," Nell said, with a rather nervous laugh.

"My mother wants Flossie. She says the child reminds her so much of my little sister Frances, who died when I was small," Dick said slowly. Then he brought his gaze down from the clouds, and looked at his companion, but her face was turned away, and he could only see the soft, dark hair, and the tip of a very pink ear.

"Mrs. Bronson is very kind; but I don't think Flossie would be happy to go away from us entirely," Nell replied, in a constrained tone.

"I don't think she would either," he said cheerfully.