



"TO RAISE THE GENIUS AND TO MEND THE HEART."

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THE TWO FRIENDS.

There is not in the world a more endearing relation than that of pure disinterested friendship, and there scarcely lingers a recollection in our bosoms that is not in some degree coloured with its tints. The world and its pursuits are enemies; often fatal enemies to this generous passion, and as generally have they proved its bane, that it has been the subject of frequent disputation, whether disinterested friendship in any instance really exists throughout the whole circle of humanity. It is sufficient for the present purpose to endeavor to picture an instance in which the brightest links of friendship were woven round the brows of two once dear companions, and destined, as it proved, awhile to grow with their growth and strengthen with their strength, and to burst at last asunder by a single touch. The young Rockwell's were cousins—their parents resided in the neighborhood of each other, and they were playmates from infancy. The elder, Edgar, was but a few months older than Charles, and the ties of kindred and of similar pursuits naturally led them to esteem each other; nor was the ingredient most essential to confidential friendship, similar dispositions wanting, and while they spent their early lives in the quiet enjoyment of peace and harmony; never was there a happier or truer example of the warmest attachment exhibited. If one of them was unwell, the other seemed to partake of his pain; if one was ill treated, the other was the first to resent it; if one suffered disgrace at school, the other was the first to weep for it; and if one received the meed of praise, the other was always the most elated. Often have they been seen in their various situations, and they were still the same. But as it always happens, time changed the aspect even of their loves.

The young Rockwell's had not yet arrived at manhood when they had both the misfortune to lose their parents—their separation was the consequence. Edgar went to reside with a wealthy relation, while Charles continued at his native place and was obliged to

content himself with the correspondence of his friend. This relation was an uncle to them both, and as he was apparently without nearer heirs, the young Rockwell's naturally suffered their expectation to be directed towards his fine farms and heavy chests, for the old man, though not absolutely miserly, had still a greater share of avariciousness than was to be commanded. Mr. Ross was shortly after these circumstances called to England for the purpose of settling the affairs of a distant relation there, who had bequeathed him a considerable estate, and embarked, leaving Edgar in the capacity of sole agent to manage, with a dangerous malady, from which he only recovered with the loss of his reason, and was sent to an hospital from which he escaped, and all traces of him was for a while lost. As yet, however, the Rockwell's remained the same—but the trying moments were approaching. Accounts were received of the death of Mr. Ross—the will was produced—it was thus: That in consequence of Madeline Ross, the whole estate was willed to Edgar Rockwell—but that should the said Madeline be living, then it was the will of her father that she would be his sole and only heir; and Edgar consequently came in possession of the whole property. Elevated by success which he never dreamed of, he became a new creature; the city and the style of a nobleman was aspired to, from the plain and simple life of a country farmer, and the correspondence and intimacy of his once dear friend was abandoned for the company and smiles of flatterers. Charles was forgotten—but in the simplicity of his heart he still loved that friend to whose bosom he had once been so dear, and to whom, faithful to his early vows, he cheerfully resigned all the wealth he saw him in possession of. Nothing stings ingratitude so deeply as forgiveness—and Edgar, elevated as he felt himself, could not bear to hear the character of his friend extolled above his own. Fortune had made him jealous already, and he resolved on his cousins ruin, and the next visit he paid to the country he purchased some obligations held by one of his acquaintances against Charles—and