

then Miss Douglas, endeavored to be very agreeable, and to engage Mrs. Grant in conversation, when the old lady at length said,

"If I make a remark,  
It will be of the lark."

In 1806, Mrs. Grant's second work was published by the Longmans of London, entitled *Letters from the Mountains*, which had been written chiefly to her correspondents from the manse during a long series of years. They were so full of Highland scenery, character and legends, expressed in the happiest style of epistolary composition, that even with the omission of whatever was private or of a confidential character, they proved exceedingly popular and rapidly passed through several editions. "No person, I believe," wrote Mrs. Grant, "was so astonished at their success as myself;" and when another three hundred pounds was received for the second edition she said: "I calculate and wonder at my own wealth." As pleasant illustrations of the deep interest felt in the letters and their writer, it may be mentioned that three wealthy Scotch merchants of London, with whom Mrs. Grant had no previous acquaintance, sent her a present of three hundred pounds, and through the exertions of Miss Lowell of Boston and a few other ladies, also unknown to Mrs. Grant, an American edition of her *Letters from the Mountains* was published in that city, and three hundred pounds was remitted to her as the proceeds.<sup>1</sup>

Mrs. Grant's best known work begun in 1807 at the age of fifty-two, and issued by her friends the Messrs. Longman in the year following, is entitled *Memoirs of an American Lady*. It consists, in addition to her youthful recollections of Madam Margarita Schuyler, who married her cousin, Col. Philip Schuyler<sup>2</sup> of Albany, of descriptions of the simple manners of the descendants of the Dutch settlers, sketches of the history of New York, and anecdotes of the Indians. What did not fall within her own personal experiences as a child she appears to have gleaned from the conversation of Mrs. Schuyler and others, and she seems to have forgotten nothing; for the quick-witted child had an observant eye and a mind like Macaulay's, which was

"Wax to receive and marble to retain."

The volume concludes with two chapters of General Reflections, in which Mrs. Grant, who was, like Mrs. Schuyler, a staunch and true

<sup>1</sup> This kind act was consummated through the efforts of Miss Lowell, whose brother John Lowell, Jr., became acquainted with Mrs. Grant during his residence of several years in Edinburgh, and left her a legacy of five thousand dollars as a mark of affectionate veneration for her character.

<sup>2</sup> The distinguished revolutionary general of the same name was a nephew of Mrs. Schuyler.