

KATE'S CONQUEST.

Went on the Way to a Picnic—A Lover's Test.

"So, Kate, you have decided not to go with us," said Mary Williams. "What kind of conveyance will we have?" was Kate Bryant's query.

"Oh, ah! How funny. We shall go as a kingly retinue." And Mary's clear voice rang peal after peal of merry laughter. "Let me see. There will be ten of us in one company. Thirty in all—a roodly number for plenty of fun. I do not know how the remainder of the company will reach the grounds. Thus Mary shyly avoided an answer to Kate's question.

"I have made no preparations for our dinner," said Kate Bryant. "If you will only promise that you will 'do as Rome does' you may dine with us. Get your bonnet, for here comes George Blewett—our cavalier," said Mary.

Kate moved to the door, really wishing to set out on their country jaunt. "What is this, Mary? Your gay cavalier has brought not a coach and four, but a butcher-wagon. What shall we do? I cannot go in that style. We shall be the laughing-stock of all our friends.

It was useless to appeal to Mary. Her laugh made the whole house echo. "Oh, Mary, how can you laugh in that manner? I declare I am half provoked at you for your foolishness. What will you tell George Blewett?"

"Tell him nothing; only step into the vehicle," was Mary's answer, as soon as she recovered her breath sufficiently to be able to speak. "It is too rich a joke for us to lose the half of it by refusing to go. Come, Kate; I cannot sympathize with your mischievous air. The wagon is clean, comfortable; plenty of nice straw at the bottom."

Mary was reconnoitering the enemy through the parlor blinds. "Kate, he has a bean for you—Henry Raine." "If I had refused to accompany you before, the presence of Mr Raine would be sufficient to induce me to form one of your party," said Kate, as Mary, with an inquiring look, turned to her.

A ring at the door-bell testified the arrival of the charioteers. Even then, Kate drew back as she said: "I cannot ride through the city in this manner. Let them call for Annie Cross, as she is going; and they can wait for us at the depot, and we will walk out there. Brother will accompany us."

The young men were not easily persuaded to depart without the company of the ladies. But they pleaded that they were not quite ready, and would soon overtake them. They were surely not ready, for both sank down, almost convulsed with laughter at their grand escape.

"Too bad! too bad!" was Kate's remark. "Annie Cross will have a delightful drive up and down the streets. I would give anything to see her!"

They arranged their toilet, then, accompanied by Kate Bryant's brother, started on foot for the place of meeting. They waited a few minutes until the wagon and Annie appeared, when there was much merry laughter at their informal mode of joining the company. It was only a drive of a few miles.

Kate and Mr Raine occupied the back seat; Mary and Mr Blewett were together; Annie had an extremely interesting conversation, as appeared from the manner in which she listened to the tones of his low voice.

Kate was watching the parties which sat before her; and falling to hear some remark which her partner had made, as she turned to him, perceived a new expression in his handsome, dark eyes. It was an expression of esteem and admiration. For one moment her pulse quickened as she thought of the bare possibility of his having a feeling stronger than mere friendship for her.

"I was only saying, Miss Bryant," said Mr Raine, "that I could not fail to respect every member of our party for their independent spirit. How many sentimental young ladies and conceited young fops do you think could have been induced to form one of this party?"

mental ladies, and yet you refused to attend this picnic, on the score of going in a wagon?"

"I am sentimental, if you call me that, because I fear ridicule," said Kate. "I cannot bear to be laughed at." And she pouted very prettily. "You did not flinch when I laughed at you," said Mr Raine. "Pardon me, Kate, but I admire—love. I should say—a woman who, unshrinkingly, will tell the truth, though she fears being laughed at. I saw in your manner this morning that you did not wish to be seen in the wagon. I knew that the blush which overspread your face was caused only by the remembrance of your feelings of this spring. I longed to know whether you could tacitly receive an unmerited compliment. Kate, dear Kate," and he took her hand, "I love you. I have adored you so long. It was I who planned it, that I might test, what I esteem so important in any individual, truth—the reverence for truth. Not only trusts it is opposed to falsehood, but as it revealed to us through God and nature, Kate's hand was not withdrawn.

A party of twenty were assembled in the grove where the picnic was to be held; and the clapping of hands and waving of handkerchiefs, as our party jumped from the wagon, testified to the gaiety of all its. The day passed pleasantly away none failed to do justice to the contents of the well-stored baskets.

"Kate," said Mr Raine, the party started homeward, "we get out of the wagon at the suburb the city and walk home. I have a for myself. Can you guess what it is?"

Kate looked very blank, as she said, "I cannot read your thoughts as easily as you read mine."

"I wish to try my eye by having a private conversation with your parents," was Mr Raine's explanation. We were not present; interview between Mr Raine and his parents; but we can guess the result of the fact that, in three months, sent us a card inscribed "Dear Mr. and Mrs. Raine."

MR. AND MRS. H. RAINE. HENRY RAINE, CATHARINE E. BRANT.

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Donald was a canny Scot who lived a life of stolid confidence, however, Donald as a communicative aspect, and most becoming modesty he told her that "his wife had gotten."

"Oh, indeed," said the maiden how are they both? "Ah, indeed," she hana fana; she hana fana."

One up the system by Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It will feel like a new person. I have found health, and relief, arising by the use of this purifier, when all other means failed.

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"I shall have the pleasure of making you acquainted with some of them in less than a half hour," said Mr Raine. "So you disclaim your relationship to sentimental ladies, and yet you refused to attend this picnic, on the score of going in a wagon?"

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