

skill in character grouping. The plot is quite simply constructed and, while there is little attempt at what may be termed fine writing, there are general passages of beauty and compass in the book. The characters get on very well, and one or two incidents, which are striking and realistic, are exceedingly well managed. Of course the progress of the tender passion is a marked feature in the narrative which Miss Dempster tells so well. There are several good situations in the story, and the conversations are for the most part bright and interesting. The heroine is a very charming young lady who, at an early period, gains the good-will of the reader, who cannot help following her varying fortunes with a more than ordinary degree of interest. She is the daughter of a close-fisted Scottish farmer, whose word in his own house at least, is law, and who adds to his accomplishment of getting drunk on 'cattle-day,' a deep-rooted hatred of femininity in boys and men. He is a man of hard and uncouth manners, and his disposition is as rough and unyielding as his dying wife's is mild and sweet-tempered. She is Highland Scotch, and the romantic element in her nature is inherited by her son Hugh, whose tastes are largely artistic. He detests farming, and having lived some years with an indulgent uncle, he receives with an ill grace the scoldings and corrections of his father. The elder Ford fancies there is nothing in his son because that young gentleman does not care to follow the plough, and dislikes the engaging occupation of the agriculturalist. The result is that whenever the couple meet, a quarrel is sure to ensue, and the powerless wrath of the son expends itself at the bedside of the wasting woman whose heart bleeds for the boy for whom she cherishes the warmest and strongest love. Hugh's troubles are shared by his sister Marion, the heroine of the tale, and he often listens to her mild reproof and accepts advice from her

when his own breast is full of angry emotions and injured pride. A truant escapade, a forbidden adventure in a boat, an angry scene at home, a blow struck by an unreasonable and infuriated parent decides the boy's future. He leaves his dying mother and sorrowing sister, and embarks on a whaling expedition, mentally resolving never to return to Netherbyres again, or to forgive the contumely of his chastisement. He meets with many adventures, and in the meantime his mother dies heart-broken at his absence. Marion, who unites the qualities of being able to love and of being loved holds the balance even between the parents, and often pours oil on the troubled waters and brings peace out of chaos. Of course such a sweet character would not remain long without admirers and lovers. Marion is beloved by two at the same time, a clergyman well advanced in years, and a dashing young physician of good family. She loves the latter, and is beloved in return, but though there is no actual troth plighted or vows exchanged, an 'understanding' is tacitly arrived at. Money matters at length call the doctor away from the Scottish coast, and in order to save his family name from threatened disgrace and pecuniary embarrassment the young physician smothered his passion for the woman he really loves, and marries his wealthy cousin at Norwood. Sad hearted, poor Marion Ford bemoans her fate, and seeks the bracing climate of the Highlands, at the advice of old Doctor Miller who notices the absence of roses from her cheek, and interprets the paleness of her face to grief for her mother's death. She comes back soon after, however, to her father's roof, in response to an urgent summons. The Reverend George Esslemont now sees his opportunity, and lays siege to the citadel of the maiden's heart. The love making between these two is most deliciously described by Miss Dempster, and the appearance on the