

abundance of thought and manners, and community of feeling, which formed the foundation of the attachment which existed between the parents.

This friendship was not exclusive of some acquaintanceships with the neighbouring young men and women, which, however, were in general mutual, neither of the two young maidens having formed any intimacy with another without her friend participating in the friendship. Among others, Lewis Campbell, the son of a neighboring farmer, who had been a large creditor of David Mearns at the time of his failure, called sometimes at the cottage of Bramblehaugh, and was soon smitten with a strong love for Effie. They sometimes indulged in long walks by the side of the river.

We may anticipate, when we say that the time spent in these excursions—in which the loveliest beauties of external nature, and the purest and purest emotions of two loving hearts acting in co-operation and harmony, formed a present and a future such as poets dream of, and the world never realizes, but momentary glimpses—were the happiness of these lovers. Effie's inseparable companion, Lucy, frequently met them as they strolled along by the house of Burbank: and the soft breathings of ardent affection were relieved by the gay and innocent prattles of the companions, who enjoyed, though in different degrees, the conversation and manners of the young lover. The simplicity and single-heartedness of Effie were entirely exclusive of a single thought unfavorable to equal openness and frankness on the part of her companion, whom she had informed, in an artless way, of the state of her affection. But what might not have resulted from mere acquaintanceship between Lucy and Effie's lover, was called forth by the words of the former, whose spirit of emulation, excited by the good fortune of her poor friend, suggested a secret wish to alienate the affection of Lewis from her companion, and direct it to herself. The wish to be beloved, though the mere effect of emulation, is the basis of the artificial modes by which love is generated in the heart of the wisher; and Lucy soon became, unbeknown for a time to Effie, as much enamoured of young Lewis as her unsuspecting friend.

The first intimation that Effie received of the state of Lucy's feelings towards her

lover, was from Lewis himself. Sitting at a part of the haugh called the Cross Knowe, from the circumstance of an old Romish cruciform stone that stood on the top of a gentle elevation—a place much resorted to by the lovers—Lewis unable to conceal a single thought or feeling from one who so well deserved his confidence, first told her of the perfidy of her friend.

'You are not so well supplied with sweethearts, Effie,' he began, 'as I am; for I can boast of two besides you.'

'That speaks little in your favor, Lewie,' replied she, 'for, if it was my wish, I could have a' the young men o' the haugh makin' love to me from morning to e'en.'

'That remark, Effie,' said Lewis, 'implies that I courted, or at least received marks of affection, from others besides you, while I was leading you to suppose that my heart entirely yours. Now, that is not justified by what I said; for one may have sweethearts, and neither know nor acknowledge them as such.'

'Maybe I am wrang, Lewie,' said Effie, 'but what was I to think but that the twaither sweethearts ye mentioned were acknowledged by ye? Its no in pooer o' my my heart to conceive hoo a young woman could love ane that neither kened nor acknowledged her love. But I speak frae my ain simple, an' maybe worthless thoughts.—The world is wide and haulds black and fair, weak an' strang, heigh an' laigh; an' wherefore no also hearts an' minds as different as their bodies? The birds of this haugh hae only their ain single luvies; but they're a' colored alike that belang to ae kind. Would it had been God's pleasure to make mankind like the bonny birds!

'I fear, Effie,' replied Lewis, 'that a statement of mine, intended to be partly in jest, has been construed by you in such a manner as to produce to you pain. God is my witness that I am as single hearted in my affection as the birds of this haugh; and gaudier colors, sweeter notes, and better scented bowers will never interfere with the love I bear to Effie Mearns.'

'What meant ye, then, Lewie, by sayin ye had two sweethearts besides Effie Mearns?' said she.

'That you shall immediately know,' replied Lewis, 'and will think more highly of me when I shew you, by revealing secrets, not indeed confided to me, but still secrets, that