

occurred to him to ask how the clothes which he had sold for drink came to be hanging over the foot-board of his bed when he became sober.

Having delivered himself to meditation for a day, he came out as a professor of moral virtues and as the careful paternal head of the family. Shaven, neat, and well dressed, though with a hand somewhat trembling, he seated himself at the breakfast table.

"I have taken unusual pains with my dress, my daughters, for your sakes. The beauty of the weather reminds us that summer is here, and with summer will come summer guests. I do not wish you to be uneasy, my children; I know what is due to you. Faith, you can be as cheerful as you please. Rely upon me to do nothing to mar your prospects."

Faith flamed crimson. Her prospects! What prospects had she? Oh, how could he speak so? Why could she not be let alone? This was too detestable! If by chance anyone spoke to her on the beach, must it be taken for granted that she had prospects? She sprang up, ran away to her room, and there cried with vexation, disgust and mortification.

"Faith is uneven in her temperament of late," said father tranquilly to Letty. "It is said to be a sign of love."

"Please, father, do not speak so. Faith and I cannot think of such things," remonstrated poor Letty.

"And why not?" demanded father.

"Because I am prohibited by my misfortunes, and Faith by your fault!" said Letty, exasperated in behalf of her sister. And that was the severest thing Letty ever said to her father.

"*Sed redeo ad formulam.*" said father magisterially. "I shall do nothing to mar Faith's prospects. She shall be made happy in spite of herself."

"Father, promise me you will not interfere—you will not take things for granted; you will not—you will not be talking to Mr. Julian if he comes here!"

"No, Letty; surely not. It is not needful for you to instruct me in the proprieties of life. No; I will do nothing; for Ennius reminds us: 'An ill-done good, I judge an evil deed.' Do not be alarmed. I surely have your sister's happiness more at heart than you have. Come, Letty, call your sister down to help you, and then seat yourself by the open window. I will go out and bring you a bouquet. Air, light, the wild-flowers are to us free gifts of God. What more do we wish? Our home is lowly, our lot is poor; but with free minds the universe is ours. 'For what in human affairs,' says Cicero, 'may seem great to him to whom all eternity and all the magnificence of the universe is known?' In the realm of thought, my child, we may reign as kings. Happy is the mind fed on the marvels of nature and the glorious developments of philosophy; happy the heart like yours, my child, at peace with itself; happy the young maid, like your sister, whose beautiful face reflects a beautiful mind."

After a day or two, the sisters, as usual, fell in with father's changed state, and listened without amazement or irritation while he praised self-control, self-sacrifice, family love, prudence, charity, temperance—all the virtues. He should in that state have been a professor of morals.

When Faith grew weary of the house she could now go to the rocks, with the better grace that father was as pleasant as could be wished, and was making himself agreeable to Letty in the house. So to her granite throne went Faith, and, cheered by the beauty that was all around her, smiled and sang.

Letty and father walked down there to call her home to tea. They saw her as they came, her shining