

husband's junior, and still retained a great measure of her superb youthful beauty. Delicate looking, as in her youth, her happy married life and the fresh vitalizing air of her country home—whose active duties she much liked—had preserved her health ; and her husband and her children—with these duties—yielded her a loving interest in life which had kept her a happy and a handsome woman.

If she did not quite share her husband's love of abstruse studies, yet she was well educated, refined and agreeable ; so happily constituted with the rare charm of rendering all around her pleasurable and bright—that an invitation to Lake Mordaunt was always eagerly accepted by the happy recipients. Many of the adornments of the place had been of her creation. Her conservatories, her flowers and her gardens were the boast of the country around ; probably as much for her sake, as for their intrinsic merits ; for her suave politeness to all ; her kindness and sweet human sympathies gave in return the respect and love of all classes with whom she came in contact ; while there was no surer way of gaining her good-will than an honest admiration of the objects of her love : her husband, her children, and Lake Mordaunt.

---

### CHAPTER III.

---

#### A YOUNG LADY—A LAWYER—AND A YANKEE.

On a pleasant evening, closing a sultry July day, in the year of grace 1873, three persons were seated in the cool and leafy verandah that shaded the house at Lake Mordaunt, enjoying the fresh evening breeze ; watching the declining sun as it dipped over the pretty lake and burnished its tiny wavelets ; and admiring the golden tinging of the woody points—the last bright, farewell kisses of departing day.