

significant nod, which he directed to my neighbor, showed that he understood who was the author of this petty larceny: and well he might, for in his boyhood he had often profited by Miss Kate's prudent foresight; for the day after a party, she watches for the school boys as they pass her house, and especial favorites are summoned to receive these marks of her favor, which vary according to the size of the party she had attended the previous evening. When she had been out to tea, merely 'in a friendly way,' a pilfered lump of sugar, or a biscuit, only, was forthcoming, whereas, a ball furnished cakes and other dainties; and so it may be easily supposed that Miss Kate enjoys great popularity among the juveniles.

"Last week, as I was proceeding to call upon her, I met a lady upon the way, who said that she would accompany me. Miss Kate, I suppose, had been actively engaged superintending her domestic duties, and probably was in her *dis-habill*, as she calls it. With me she would have been upon no ceremony, but upon seeing the lady by whom I was accompanied, she retreated to her room, and desired the servant to say, 'not at home.' This announcement, however, had not the desired effect, for my companion said:

"I am sorry that Miss Duff is not at home, but as I am very much fatigued with my long walk, I will take the liberty of sitting down in the drawing-room for a few moments."

"We were accordingly ushered into the house, and the servant, by Miss Kate's direction, I suppose, very kindly offered us a glass of wine, which I declined. My companion did the same, but added, that she would thank her for a tumbler of water.

"'Trot, trot' the wine, it'll do ye guid after your long walk, diann be fear't o't."

"'Tak' it, bairns!" cried the well-known voice of Miss Kate, through the key-hole of an adjoining room, greatly to the confusion of the servant girl, and in accents so kind and hearty, that we could not resist them, and each swallowed the wine as quickly as possible, and made a hasty retreat, lest our uncontrollable laughter should reach the ears of the hospitable lady, who was 'not at home.'

"You bid me beware of my heart, lest it is transferred to Mr. Lindsay, without its possessor's knowledge, and you tell me of one who is constantly making kind enquiries after my health and happiness. To your warning, I say, fear not; for as yet, I only esteem, admire, respect—but do not love. With regard to Broombank, I can never forget him, but my feelings have already undergone a great change, and I will confess to you, that I no longer love him. Do not question

me further upon this subject, for I cannot assign any reason for my fickleness. It is not the effect of time, nor of his unworthiness, nor of another attachment upon my part. I only hope that absence may have the effect of alienating his affections from me, for it would grieve me to wound his manly, generous heart, by unlessered coldness, and I can henceforth regard him only as a dear friend.

"But to change this painful subject, I must give you a piece of news, which creates quite a commotion among the inhabitants of S——. This is, the arrival of a great beauty and heiress among us, who threatens to throw all the other ladies of our good town, into the shade. I have seen her several times, and she is certainly the most beautiful creature I ever beheld! Her figure is about the middle height, and she is particularly elegant in appearance. She possesses those delicately formed and regular features, with which we seldom meet, and her long yellow hair falls, like a shower of gold, over shoulders white as snow. She dances most gracefully, and reports says, is accomplished as beautiful. Nature has, indeed, in every respect, been very bountiful to her. Upon her appearance, all the gentlemen deserted their old flames, and crowded around this lovely specimen of human nature, in a manner which I thought must have confused and embarrassed her extremely, and I was not a little astonished to observe that she received all their homage as a matter of course, and an acknowledged right. I will own to you, that it was with feelings of great pleasure that I beheld Mr. Lindsay retain his seat by my side for the evening, and he did not even request an introduction to Miss Hepburn. He certainly admires her, for I read it in his looks, and I observed her regard him several times with an appearance of interest; but this may only be imagination in me."

"I resume my pen to finish this letter, after a lapse of two days. I attended a magnificent entertainment at Craigmile, last evening, which was given to celebrate the birth-day of the beautiful Ellen Hepburn. She was looking, if possible, lovelier than ever.

"Alas! jealousy is the test by which to prove love, and even to discover if such a feeling exists. To you, my early friend, I will confess, that your suspicions have been, for my peace of mind, too well realized, and the conviction that I love Mr. Lindsay has most cruelly been brought home to my heart. It was not until I heard him talking to another, in the same low, soft tones, in which he used to converse with me alone—it was not till I beheld the same flattering attentions bestowed upon another, which I alone had shared,