

the portico, find much more grace in his eyes. Thus, the advances, which such close vicinage would have admitted, might long have been deferred, had their impression of him been of a different character.

One afternoon, at the expiration of the above named period, Miss Wharncliffe and her brother were idling in the windows of the drawing-room, which, though it contained some handsome and fashionable articles, had yet an unfinished, unfurnished look; and contrasting the hot, unsheltered walls of the Folly, with the embowered dwelling of their neighbour, when, after a pause, the lady remarked, "There never was anything more preposterous, than papa's bringing us into such a desert. He ought to have required better assurances with regard to the society, than those of a talking ship-captain, who had scarcely ever been on land a month at a time, and who had a house to sell. And such a house—it is ludicrous as well as vexatious, to think how we have been taken in. Why, from your account, there cannot be more than two *eligibles* among the men in the whole district."

"You forget, though, that we got the house on a good long credit, a very important matter just now," yawned the young gentleman in reply, snapping his fingers to a couple of dogs that were rolling and tumbling about the floor, "however, it would have been wiser to have taken pains to find a place where the old gentleman could not only retrench, but provide for his dutiful daughter at the same time. You have no time to lose, Nelly, and we have already made the tour of the cities and the watering-places without success."

The lady laughed, but received as a matter of earnest, her brother's observations. "It is, indeed, too provoking," said she, "that of the thousands of Yankees I have met, not one but has been too stupid to appreciate me, and to be at last reduced to manoeuvring for mere vil lage notables; but it would be still worse, after crossing the Atlantic for a husband, to get nobody at all. So, your two *eligibles* must be attacked."

"Well, what think you of Meadows, the lawyer? I have put you on his track already, by introducing him."

"Oh, the Pottowattomy! such a figure! such a *palois*! however, he is not altogether to be despised. From your account of him, he may yet go to Congress, and by taking him, I might some time be sent home as American ambassador—who knows? But I may as well let him run until I shall have met the other, the

doctor. There he is, at this moment, sitting on the verandah. He really does look like a gentleman, and he really has a pretty little housestead. It is the tidiest, snuggest thing I have seen on this side of the water;—rather humble, though."

"Not more humble, Nelly, than the parage you tried so hard to get, when you best deserved it, five years ago; however, he does look like a gentleman, for a Yankee. Professor W——, who likes a Manton as well as least, as his calpel, told me that he really was one, and remarked that though I might not find him exactly to my taste, he certainly was a man of talent and learning. He seemed, though, to have very little inclination for acquaintance."

If that is his character, no wonder; you and papa look so unintellectual, that I suppose he would not find either of you very companionable. I am now the more anxious to have a chance at him, and shall lose no opportunity to obtain it."

"In spite of himself, I suppose, Nelly? Is he to assist you? none of the female village have made an incursion upon us yet."

"I shall introduce myself, if I find none to do it," replied Miss Elnor, coolly.

"With all your genius for management, you will find that rather an undertaking—the old gentleman unwilling."

"No such thing, George; rather than let him, I would bravely invade his premises. I am half tempted to do so now, he looks so comestable there among his vines."

"I wager a guinea you would not do it, if I know you to be."

"Done!" returned the lady, promptly.

"And I'll hold the stakes," said Mr. Wharncliffe, senior, who had been dozing on a sofa in the adjoining room, and had awakened to the conclusion of the dialogue.

"The doctor's name is Witherton, is it?" asked Miss Elnor, as she carefully adjusted her bonnet before the mirror; and with a curtsey to her brother, she walked complacently out of the door, leaving the gentlemen to watch her movements from the windows.

"That girl has the effrontery of old Hodge when she chooses to exercise it," said her brother, laughing.

"Let her alone," said the old gentleman, with a look of parental satisfaction; "she'll play a bold game, rather than lose a chance for a husband. It is a strange thing to me that she has failed so long. She has a cleverness and looks in plenty, and not too much fastid-