

'It's the beginning of *'Lætus sorte mea.'* Ah, you know now! You ought to have guessed without my telling you. Do you remember? I remember, and I mean to remember. I told Jemima that very night, I said, 'It means happy with my fate, and in our family we have to be happy with it, whatever sort of a one it is.' For you told me so. And I told the tuner, and he liked hearing about it very much. And then he went on tuning, and he smiled so when he was listening to the notes, I thought he looked very happy; so I asked him, and he said, yes, he was always happy when he was meddling with a musical instrument. But I thought most likely all brave poor things are happy with their fate, even if they can't tune; and I asked father, and he said, 'Yee,' and so we are putting it into my collection—partly for that, and partly, when the coat-of-arms is done, to show that the book belongs to me. Now, father dear, the explaining is really quite finished this time, and you may do all the rest of the show-off yourself!'

## CHAPTER IX.

Oh, Jemima! Jemima! I know you are very kind, and I do mean not to be impatient; but either your telling stories or your talking nonsense, and that's a fact. How can you say that the blue stuff is a beautiful match, and will wash the exact color, and that you're sure I shall like it when it's made up with a cord and tassels, when it's not the blue I want, and when you know the men in hospital haven't any tassels to their dressing gowns at all! You're as bad as that horrid shopman who made me so angry. If I had not been obliged to be good, I should have like to hit him hard with my crutch, when he kept on saying he knew I should prefer a shawl-pattern lined with crimson, if I would let him send one. Oh, here comes father! Now, that's right; he'll know. Father dear, is this blue pattern the same color as that?'

'Certainly not. But what's the matter, my child?'

'It's about my dressing-gown; and I do get so tired about it, because people will talk nonsense, and won't speak the truth, and won't believe I know what I want myself. Now, I'll tell you what I want. Do you know the Hospital Lines?'

'In the Camp? Yes.'

'And you've seen all the invalids walking about in blue dressing-gowns and little red ties?'

'Yes. Charming bits of color.'

'Hurrah! that's just it! Now, father dear, if you wanted a dressing-gown exactly like that—would you have one made of this?'

'Not if I knew it! Crude, coarse, staring—please don't wave it in front of my eyes, unless you want to make me feel like a bull with a red rag before him!'

'Oh, father dear, you are sensible! (Jemima, throw this pattern away, please!) But you'd have felt far worse if you'd seen the shawl pattern lined with crimson. Oh, I do wish could have been a bull that wasn't

obliged to be *lætus* for half a minute, to give that shopman just one toss! But I believe the best way to do will be as O'Reilly says—get Uncle Henry to buy me a real one out of store, and have it made smaller for me. And I should like it 'out of store.'

From this conversation it will be seen that Leonard's military bias knew no change. Had it been less strong it could only have served to intensify the pain of the heartbreaking associations which anything connected with the troops now naturally raised in his parents' minds. But it was a sore subject that fairly healed itself.

The Camp had proved a more cruel neighbor than the Master of the House had ever imagined in his forebodings; but it also proved a friend. For if the high, ambitious spirit, the ardent imagination, the vigorous will, which fired the boy's fancy for soldiers and soldier life, had thus led to his calamity, they found in that sympathy with men of hardihood and lives of discipline, not only an interest that never failed and that lifted the sufferer out of himself, but a constant incentive to those virtues of courage and patience for which he struggled with touching conscientiousness.

Then, without disparagement to the earnestness of his efforts to be good, it will be well believed that his parents did their best to make goodness easy to him. His vigorous individuality still swayed the plans of the household, and these came to be regulated by those of the Camp to a degree which half annoyed and half amused its Master.

(To be continued.)



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