

Lilias, as soon as she had recovered her breath : "are you also enjoying this delightful evening?"

"Oh, yes! ha! ha! I always like to walk upon the beach when it is stormy, the breeze is so delightfully refreshing, and it elevates one's spirits so charmingly. But," she continued, flying with her usual rapidity from one subject to another, "have you heard the news; all S—— is in a commotion about it?"

"No," replied Lilias, "I have heard nothing. What has happened?"

"Nothing as yet, child, but something, no doubt, will soon happen, for a great heiress and beauty is coming here, and we are all making up our minds to lose our lovers, though after all she can only carry one off. You may be very glad that Munro is absent, for she may be married before he returns, so you have the best chance among us."

"But who is this great heiress and beauty?" inquired Lilias, "who is to overthrow in a moment the work of years?"

"Why, my dear, her father was old Mr. Hepburn, of Craigmile, a very rich old man, who married a very pretty young wife, and they say that she inherits all her mother's beauty, and what will serve her still better, all her father's cash; for he is dead, and she is now Lady of Craigmile, a property which none of our S—— beaux think is to be sneezed at. But come along, child, and have a walk, for you will catch cold sitting upon this rock, with the spray dashing over you."

So taking a firm grasp of Lilias by the arm, off she marched with long steps, detailing all the news she had heard concerning this new star, which was to outshine them all.

"MR DEAR MRS. FORSYTH,—Again I take up my pen to furnish you with some more news and nonsense, in the hope that it will amuse you as much as the last.

"Time has sped swiftly onwards since I left Glen Saugh, and we are now surrounded by 'gloomy winter.' How often, when in the midst of gaiety, do I shut my eyes, and fancy myself seated beside you at the cheerful fire-side, listening to your amusing tales. Oh, happy days!—days of simplicity and peace, which can never more return!

I have now discovered why winter is here hailed with so much delight, for there is now a continued round of balls, assemblies and card parties. I frequently attend them, but, as you know, do not dance; however, I amuse myself very well, admiring others. I have looked in vain for a sight of one of those minuets which you used to speak, and the other evening, when I

asked Miss Williamson if she could dance one, she laughed heartily at my rusticity, and exclaimed:

"Where in all the world did you hear of such an old-fashioned dance; why, surely, you read nothing but Sir Charles Grandison. I believe my grandmother used to dance it, but don't let any one hear you ask such a silly question, or they will be sure to laugh at you," and she ended with a loud ha! ha! which drew the attention of the whole room upon us.

"Mr. Lindsay came forward, and inquired the cause of so much mirth. I informed him, notwithstanding Miss Williamson's admonitions, upon which he very gravely remarked, that it was a pity minuets had been discarded, for nothing but tiresome country dances had supplanted them.

"I told you that I would let you know whether Mr. Lindsay answered my expectations upon a more intimate acquaintance, and I can only say, that he far surpasses them. He is a constant visitor at our residence, and is almost our only intimate friend; for the good folks here are so fashionable, that they have no time for friendship.

"James has sent Robert to college; he makes rapid progress in his studies, and is extremely attentive. Poor boy! it is well that he is so, for by his own exertions alone, he will have to make his way through a cold, hard-hearted world.

"I have an excellent joke to tell you about one of our S—— ladies, and it is Miss Kate, that specimen of benevolence and oddity, to whom it relates.

"The other evening, I was at a party given by Mrs. Graham, and Miss Kate sat next me at table. After we had finished supper, a plate of oranges and almonds was handed to me, which I declined. To my great surprise, I observed Miss Kate help herself very liberally to a couple of the largest oranges, and, at least, half the almonds, and turning to me, she urged me to do the same. I thanked her, but said I thought I had already done full justice to the supper. With a very significant shove of her elbow, and a peculiarly comical wink, she said:

"'Troth, lassie, tak' it,' and then whispered: 'Just put it in your pouch.'

"I did not know what to do, and in my confusion, she emptied them into my lap. I watched for an opportunity, when she was looking another way, to deposit this pilfering upon the table, unobserved; but I did it in a manner so thief-like, that Mr. Lindsay's quick eye caught me.

"'Is it possible, Miss Leslie!' he exclaimed, laughing; 'can I believe my senses?'

"But upon observing my embarrassment, a