

— I don't, raily. Don't leave me. Won't you stay with me, my dear, dear Miss Lee, an' be my own — wife?"

As Uncle Moses was speaking, he drew Miss Lee nearer to him, and the good lady let her head rest on his manly shoulder.

"O, what'll they say!" she ejaculated; and that was all that she said. But this was enough for Uncle Moses. Joy and exultation illumined his eyes.

"Say," said he, in bold, manly, and defiant tones. "Who cares what they say? I don't. You need not. I'll talk to 'em. Don't you fret. It'll be all right. I'll take all the responsibility, an' you will be all my life to me what you have been for these last few weeks — a ministering angel, a heavenly comfort, a sweet companion — everything."

Great was the surprise of the friends of this affectionate pair when they learned the news. Vernon and Gracie were so evidently in love that no one expected anything else of them, though not a single soul had suspected this of Uncle Moses and Miss Lee. But the first surprise soon passed away, and then every one felt very well satisfied. Mr. Lee was glad that his sister had at length met with some one who could make her happy; Gracie was full of affectionate sympathy, and poured forth the warmest congratulations; while all the boys rejoiced over the happiness of their beloved Uncle