

plan to make the most of my youth, and enjoy myself as much as I can."

"Certainly! if you fulfil both these intentions; but, remember, riches may take to themselves wings and fly away, and *enjoyment* is apt to elude her most eager votaries, and steal in unawares among the plodding workers, who marvel how their labors have become so lightened."

"Then there is a chance for my cousin Edmund having a stray visit from her now and then," said Owen.

"Indeed, I should not much wonder if she takes up her abode with him and his fellow-workers," answered Mr. M—. "But, Owen, you say you intend to be a gentleman, and I am glad to hear it, for a true gentleman comprises every variety of attractive worth, both in character, attainment, deportment, and influence. He is the most self-denying of mortals, ever preferring the convenience of others to his own; improving his time in the cultivation of his talents, exerting his influence, and using his wealth for the counteraction of evil; employing his energies for the social weal; and all this in the most agreeable manner that can be devised. You must, indeed, make the most of your youth to attain such a distinction."

Owen was so astounded at this interpretation of a gentleman's qualities, that he could not utter a single exclamation. So his grandfather continued, "Whilst courteous to others, a true gentleman is not unmindful of himself; but always nice in his person, and unobtrusive in his dress; no tawdry tinsel, no shabby finery, betray his dependence upon outward adornment. He is refined in his habits and his language; indulging in no low phrase, no vulgar tricks, even in private. Considerate of the feelings of others, he would forego a joke rather than inflict a pang. His politeness is as assiduous in the domestic circles as in royal saloons, and he is so well informed as to be able to converse on congenial topics with the mechanic as well as the statesman, with the merchant or

the divine, with the little child or the matured philosopher. The *gentleman* is welcome in every society; is prepared to do as much good, to all classes of the community, as he possesses leisure to attend to them."

"Stop, dear sir," said Owen; "you are describing a perfect character, but I only meant a gentleman—to travel, and amuse himself, and so on."

"Well, to travel as a gentleman, you must be well acquainted with the language, history, and customs of the countries you visit; for ignorance of these things is beneath a gentleman. You must be a judge of paintings, sculpture, and architecture—they are parts of a gentleman's taste and knowledge; and for amusement, a *gentleman* cannot course or hunt—these pursuits involve so much low companionship and noisy revelry; he cannot gamble, for he would distress his antagonist, and lose his own equanimity; he cannot frequent the theatre, and those public resorts where his era would be offended by profanity, his delicacy wounded by impunity. In short, the gentleman rightly estimates his own position, his own conduct, and his prospects, and would be the last to make a mistake on either point."

"You have portrayed a vastly superior personage to any that I ever dreamt of, sir," replied Owen.

"Possibly; but as you have thought sufficiently of your future course, to choose a special path, you would surely ascertain all that belongs to that path."

"The fact is, my dear sir, I begin to feel that I have never really thought about the matter."

"Ah, 'tis an old and common error, my lad. The Great Jehovah lamented in ancient days, 'My people do not consider.' And so now, we flutter along the gay garden of childhood, heedless of all but the passing moment; then plunge headlong into the activities of life with reckless ardour, and only pause on the confines of eternity, to wish we could begin again, and redeem the unprofitable past!"