

MEMORY'S HALL.

Sometimes when heart is weary with strife Of life's vicissitudes in this world of strife...

JOHN RENTON'S FORTUNE.

Latham Hall, a stately, old, red brick mansion, with its long double avenue of lindens...

John Renton had been born under an unlucky star. He was an orphan, to begin with...

It was a very long, hot day, and the sun was shining down upon the garden...

The boy had good reason for his shyness. On the few occasions when he had accompanied...

He lived there contentedly until, in his twentieth year, his uncle John died suddenly...

'Not much of a fortune, Mr. John,' said the lawyer, frowning up the will and looking curiously at him...

Poor John Renton! Only curious or amused glances rested upon him that drew general attention...

'I always said that old Renton hadn't a penny in the world, Richard,' said one...

'though you would have it that he was bearding a fortune for that awkward cub...

'Why is it, what is it, sir?' John burst out, passionately. 'Why am I so different...

'I know of only one thing, my boy,' said the lawyer, very kindly for him. 'Go out into the world where you are not known...

With these words of wisdom still ringing in his ears, John Renton made ready for his journey on the following morning...

In his enthusiastic raving, the unhappy young man had spoken aloud. A burst of passion had glared from him...

'Good morning, Squire Renton, and good-bye,' said he, as he passed. John Renton looked after them, setting his teeth and clenching his hands...

He had intended to bid the place a silent farewell, as he passed down its one street...

'But the soft, bright day, the fresh air, the perfect novelty of every place and face...

Nothing mocked him now, at all events. There was a delicious freedom in the long, silent march upon the highway...

'No,' said John, so do I said the lawyer, dropping his tone of banter...

Let your father settle that point, when he is better, Miss Grace. I will be content with what he chooses to pay...

John Renton went blithely away to his self-imposed duties. The story over and over, he repeated the words over and over...

'Oh, pray, come here, sir. My father has fallen in the barn, and hurt himself. I fear he has broken his leg. I am alone, and cannot move him. Pray come and help me.'

John Renton's shyness vanished at once before this appeal. He ran down the hill, and followed the girl to the barn...

'Grace, you will not quite forget me when I am away,' said the poor fellow, exclaiming that he would be glad to see her...

'I believe it, but Grace, I want more than gratitude from you. I want love, for I love you with all my heart and soul...

'You have not realized your fortune, John,' he said, quietly, 'but you are much nearer Latham Hall by your year's work.'

'It was a foolish thing to say, no doubt,' said John. 'But let it pass. As for the year's work, Mr. Curtis, it has made a happy man of me, giving me the love of one of the noblest girls that ever lived.'

'No,' said John, so do I said the lawyer, dropping his tone of banter, for one of the noblest girls that ever lived...

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