

"Are you not well this morning, Burney, that you are so long getting up?"

"I am, child; but I am very tired."

"Just lie still then, Burney, and here is your breakfast. I do wish you could do without going out to nurse the sick folks, indeed I do."

"Child, I can't help it; we must live, and it ain't much I make either."

"Say, Burney, what are you going to do with the money that man left here?"

"Do with it, child? Why, I have some of your schooling to pay out of that; and I want to get you a parasol and dress with the rest."

"I don't want a parasol and dress. I wish you would rather put a gable roof to this old shanty."

"No use, no use, child, your wishing for that; wishing won't alter circumstances. Gussie, child, I like the shanty well enough and you may not be in it long."

A moment's silence, then Gussie, in a faltering voice, said:

"You won't object to my altering circumstances, will you?"

"I know not what you mean, child."

"I mean," replied Gussie, "I would like to take you to a nice house to live with me, and go no more out to nurse."

Burney said nothing, but sipped her coffee.

"I want to ask you something, Burney."

"Ask away, child."

"You promised me years ago to tell me about my parents, before I would get married, so now you have just two weeks to do it in—"

"Child, child! how is this? I did not know you were keeping company with anyone. Tell me, does anyone come here to see you?"

"No, Burney; but in where I sew. I got acquainted with a nice young man, who calls there sometimes; I don't know what for; anyway, the girls like to have me sing, and Edward, why he is crazy to hear me."

"Gussie, child, what do you know about him? He may be a drunkard, or an idle good-for-nothing, or he may be a married man. Child beware!"

"If you knew him as well as I do, Burney, you would like him. The very last time I was there, he came with me the most of the way; and he is neither a drunkard nor an idle good-for-nothing. He is not married either. And only think, he has a nice farm away up West. So we are going to have a nice comfortable home. You will come, too, won't you, Burney?"

"Gussie, dear child, I must see him. I must know that he is deserving of you, and if he is, I have no objection to your union. What is his trade, and what did you say was his name?"

"I don't know what he follows. Perhaps he lives on his money. His father is very wealthy. Edward has a gold watch and chain, and dresses well, and one of the prettiest canes you ever saw. He does not smoke, only cigars."

"Gussie, is that his christian or surname?"

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