

money, leaving me to settle the demands as I best may. Bills have been coming in for the last week, but I thought I might perhaps settle them, and thus spare your feelings. But it is of no use, it must all go; it shall never be said that I cheated my creditors. Oh, it is too bad that my hard earnings should be swindled away from me in this way, and leave me no redress."

"My dear," said Mrs. Willis, after a silence of some minutes, "let us hope for the best, you may save more than you expect; then I can be very economical, and the girls are getting to be quite a help to me, so that I think we could manage very well without any domestic. Though I truly sympathise with you, yet depend upon it, my dear, we shall not be unhappy. You have often said that you were happier when we lived quite by ourselves, and before an increase of wealth brought an increase of cares; so cheer up, love, there are brighter days in store, and if there are not, we must learn to be patient, and we have many blessings yet for which to be thankful."

"I wish I could always look on the bright side of the picture as you do, Jane, but the children—I cannot bear that they should sink into obscurity."

"Nor need they, father," said Charles; "if we are obliged to use more exertion we shall be better able to appreciate the value of time than we otherwise should."

"Well," said Mr. Willis, "I see you are all determined to be happy in spite of our misfortune, and I hope you will, though I very much fear you will find more ills to contend against than you seem to imagine."

That night was a sleepless one to some of the members of the once happy family. Mrs. Willis, though she endeavoured to cheer her husband's spirits, could not but feel anxious about the future. Julia sympathised deeply in their misfortunes. She thought she had cause for trouble before, but now she dismissed all selfish feelings, and long after midnight might she have been seen sitting in her chamber, buried in thought, striving to devise some plan which would lighten their care and lessen their expenses.

"Oh! how I wish I were rich," she mentally said, "that I might be able to help them in their time of need, and repay, in a measure, their generous kindness to me. But," she exclaimed, as a bright thought seemed to enter her head, "if I cannot help them I can at least lighten their burthen. I saw an advertisement in the paper, 'A Governess Wanted,' and

I will apply for the situation; then perhaps I shall not only be able to support myself, but have something to spare,—thanks to their goodness that I am qualified to act in that capacity."

Full of this new resolution she laid her head on her pillow, and the sun was high in the heavens ere she awoke. Dressing herself hastily she descended to the breakfast room, where she found the family assembled waiting her appearance. She apologised for her tardiness, and after breakfast, as Mr. Willis was leaving the room, she whispered to him to give her a few moments' audience. He followed her to the library.

"Well, Julia," he said, as he closed the door, "what is your errand? Your countenance completely mystifies me; come tell me, you need not be afraid to ask any favour which I have the power of granting."

Julia did not answer, but placing a newspaper in his hand, said, "Did you notice this advertisement?"

"No I did not—what is it?"

"A Governess wanted."

"Well, what of that? I do not see why that should interest you."

"Why, I thought I might perhaps obtain the situation."

"What, Julia, do you suppose that I would subject you to the contumely and drudgery of a Governess? No, my child, while I have a home, humble though it may be, you are heartily welcome to it."

"I know it, dear Papa, words are too feeble to express the gratitude I feel for all your kindness, but I am now in my seventeenth year, and feel as if I ought to make some exertions to support myself. I am sanguine of success should I make the attempt—say that I may, and if it proves unsuccessful, be sure the dove will return to the ark again. You consent, do you not?"

"I will leave it to my wife, Julia, as you seem anxious about it, and if she thinks it best I have no more to say; but if you do leave us, remember there will always be a place for you in our home and hearts." He drew her towards him as he spoke, and imprinted a kiss on her cheek, with the affectionate pride of a father.

Julia rejoined the family, and Mr. Willis repaired to his store; he inwardly applauded her resolution, though he did not say so, as he did not wish to influence her decision.

(To be continued.)