

emotion put her arms about her grandmother's neck, and wept upon her shoulder.

Lady Temple did not repulse her. She let her bedew her satin and lace with salt tears, and uttered no reproof; but spoke from time to time dreamily—

"They will be back before Christmas. We can spend Christmas all together once again in the old home. Ah, it will be like old times indeed."

At last all Dolly's tears were shed, and she was full of gentle, eager inquiry about the house in Warwickshire and the time the letters would take going and returning; and the talk went on between them for a long, long while, both seeming equally interested by it.

"You are like your mother, Dorothy?" questioned Lady Temple as the child kissed her that night.

"Yes, grandmother, they say so."

"And her name is Dorothy too?"

"Yes, I was called after her."

"God bless you, Dorothy," said Lady Temple softly, and Dolly stole away with a full heart.

CHAPTER XXI.

THE INVITATION.

Two days later it was mail-day.

Dolly had lived that time in a state of joyous ecstasy which was almost oppressive. She could think and dream of nothing but the coming return. She could settle to no employment, and only in her grandmother's room did she regain any of her customary composure.

She could not even write her usual long letter to her mother, which she had never before missed doing each week.

All she could write to-day was,

"MY OWN DARLING MAMMA,—I cannot write

you a letter to-day, I am too happy. When you read grandmother's letter you will understand what I mean. I know it will make you very happy too.

"YOUR VERY OWN LITTLE DOLLY."

This short letter she carried in as usual to her grandmother's room, for her to enclose in one to her father, or to stamp and direct by itself as the case might be.

But to-day there was a letter lying upon the table, a letter on flimsy paper not yet folded, the ink hardly dry. It was in her grandmother's writing, and Dolly's heart beat high with anticipation and joy.

"I have written to your mother, Dorothy. If you like you may read what I have said."

Dolly looked up in surprise at this permission.

(To be continued.)

A SUPERB GIFT-BOOK.

MESSRS. JAMES R. OSGOOD & Co., have established a cosmopolitan rather than a National reputation alone in their illustrated holiday gift-books. To the technical facilities of a great house they have added the finest artistic taste in selecting and presenting the graphic portions of the work, and pictures and poems blend into an harmonious unity. This elegant holiday line of gift-books began in 1881 with "Lucile," followed by "The Princess," the "Lady of the Lake," and now by the noble poem of "Marmion." It is an interesting bit of inside literary history to hear the methods adopted to secure these pictures, that are really portraits of places.

Special artists employed by the Osgood house have passed months in Scotland under the direction of Mr. A. V. S. Anthony, and the sketches are made with absolute fidelity to the scenes.

The archeological details of figures and composition of groups and genre are very finely considered, and that these details are worked out by such artists as Garrett, Fredericks, Fenn, Schell, and Merrill is a fact sufficient to indicate their quality. The very atmosphere of the days of chivalry lingers in the pages of the "Marmion" of this year, and the knightly surroundings are admirably depicted. The figure pieces from Mr. Fredericks are especially a delight, so strong and impressive are they, Not with less exquisite art are wrought the landscapes.

Here panorama after panorama unfolds itself before us as we turn the pages, the light resting on Cheviot Peak, the "castled steep" of Norham, Whitby's "cloistered pile," the quiet loveliness of Loch Venachar, the Dauby hills, and Bothwell's turret; and the "uncultured breast" of Blackford, and "the till of Twisel Bridge"—all these and more are given to us in revelations of wild Scottish beauty. The dedication of each canto is arranged with emblematic border in daintiest design, and the head and tail pieces scattered through the book are marvels of decorative beauty. Never had a poem of stately and immortal beauty a more fitting setting, and Messrs. Osgood and Co. are to be congratulated on having produced a pictured poem that is a perpetual and ever-renewing joy and delight.

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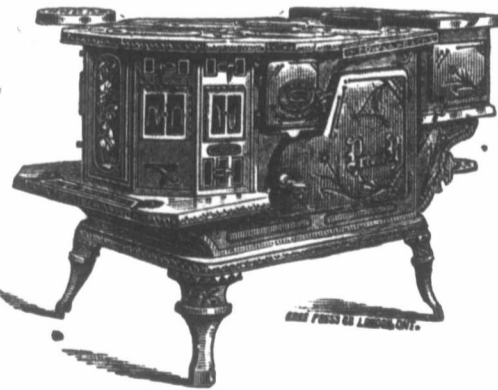
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